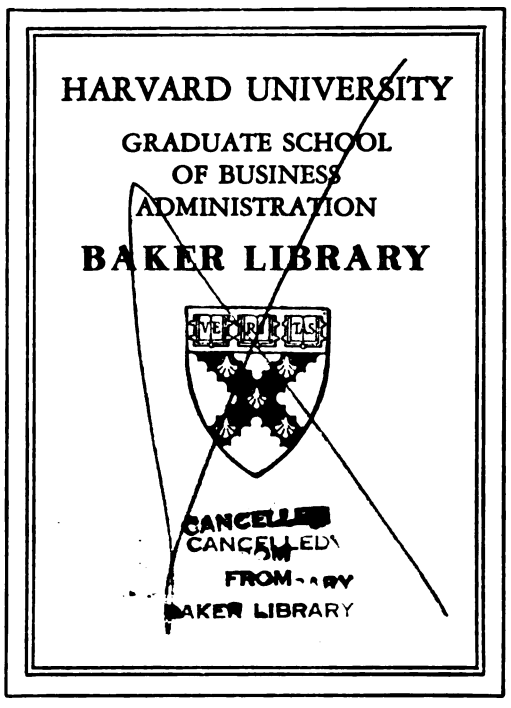
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VOL XII NO 1 MN 133

COMFORT

THE KEY TO A MILLION AND A QUARTER HOMES

NEW YORK AUGUSTA, MAINE. BOSTON

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PRIZE WINNERS FOR NOVEMBER.

Howard Markle Hoke, First Prize.
Harriet Walton Seaver, Second Prize.
George H. Smith, Third Prize.
Col. Prentiss Ingraham, Fourth Prize.
Margaret Spencer, Fifth Prize.

A JUST POISE.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY HOWARD MARKLE HOKE.

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"I SUPPOSE you know," said Daniel Hazlitt, the junior partner of Bromwood & Company, when Alfred Crown, head of the silk department, came to the private office in response to his summons, "that we have a strong rival in the new dry goods firm across the street." "I have good cause to know it," Crown replied, "for they are pushing my department hard just now on a line of silks. But it is only a question of time until the people find out the poor value of the stuff they are buying over there. Their methods can't succeed in the long run."

"They are succeeding annoyingly well just now," said Hazlitt. "Our old time methods are having a rather severe trial."

Crown barely hid his surprise, and glanced into the adjoining office to see if Mr. Bromwood, the senior partner, was within hearing. He was not, and Hazlitt seemed safe in expressing what the young man considered treasonable opinions.

"I think our record for fair dealing, Mr. Hazlitt, will stand more than the rivalry of the new firm," he said.

"It may prove a costly experiment, though, to stick to the old methods. I have sent for you to suggest that you devise some plan to head off our competitor in this silk matter. I happen to know that one of the new firm's employes can be approached and that an adroit man can induce him to give the name of the manufacturer of this popular line of silks and the prices the firm pays. It seems they bought the entire output for last year. Now, Mr. Crown, I would like you to arrange matters so that we can underbid the firm over there for the next year's production of this line of silk."

Crown did not try to hide his surprise, but the junior partner was unmoved by it. The young man got up from his chair and took one of Bromwood & Company's letter heads from Hazlitt's desk. At the top was a device representing a hand holding a pair of scales, exactly balancing a quantity of goods and a stack of coin. Over it was printed "A Just Poise." This had been the motto of the house ever since Mr. Bromwood's father had modestly started the business many years before.

"Mr. Hazlitt," said Crown, "don't you think this firm will have to adopt a new device when it resorts to such methods for getting trade?"

"Do you presume to dictate what the policy of the house is to be?" demanded Hazlitt.

"I have no such intention, sir, but I do wish to say that I cannot treat with this employe in the manner you suggest, and I could not conscientiously ask my clerks to recommend that silk to our customers."

"I must tell you, Mr. Crown, that there is to be a change here. We must adopt more aggressive methods, and we must have employes in sympathy with them."

"A departure from the days of the just poise, sir?"

"As an employe that is not a question for you. The point you are to decide is whether you will do as I suggest."

"I have decided that point. I cannot do so."

"I see that my proposal has taken you by surprise, and I believe you will see it in a different light by morning. Come in then with your answer."

"I will think it over, but my answer will be the same."

He gave a last look into Mr. Bromwood's office as he went out, but the senior partner had not come in. Crown had not dared to ask Hazlitt if Mr. Bromwood was a party to the new policy, for it had been understood that the junior partner was managing the business.

This matter had come to Crown at a very critical time. His marriage had been announced for the next month. If he should not do as Hazlitt proposed he was almost certain to be replaced by a man who would. Ought he to risk Alice's happiness on account of what some of his business friends would term an old time conscience? It needed but a few moments of consideration to see that Alice herself was the one to decide a question bearing upon her own future; so he told her all about it in the evening.

"I am not surprised, Alfred," she said. "I heard only a few days ago that Bromwood & Company are to be more aggressive, and that Mr. Hazlitt intends to get rid of some of the old employes. It is a part of his plan, I understand, to put Mr. Zandon in your place."

"Parker Zandon!"

"Yes."

"Then good bye to the days of the just poise."

"It looks so, Alfred. Mr. Zandon's interests are being urged upon the firm by some active business men of the city; but I want you to tell Mr. Hazlitt tomorrow morning that you will not do as he asks."

"But suppose I am dismissed, and our marriage announced for next month?"

"We are both strong enough to bear disappointment, if it must come, Alfred."

On his way home Crown met Zandon, who walked some distance with him.

"I'm glad to talk to you, Crown," he said, "for I must tell you that a new era is just ahead of Bromwood & Company. Hazlitt is disgusted with the old fogey methods and is going to push us to the front. I knew five years ago, when he became junior partner, that he would make an active, up-to-date business house of the ancient affair. He had to wait awhile, you know, but he is now ready to cut loose from the back number methods."

"Do you think we ought to risk the reputation that has been won on the principle of the just poise?"

"Oh, that pair of scales will have to go up to the loft with all the other grandfather remnants and ideas. If I were Hazlitt I'd have a new letterhead mighty quick."

"One of a pair of scales with the money end down, Zandon."

"Well, it's money that kicks the beam anyhow, Crown. We're all after money down there—old Bromwood as much as anyone—and I don't mind telling you, in strict confidence, that I am to be a factor in the new policy. I've had the best business influence of the city working in my favor for months. Good night."

Crown stood some minutes considering the advisability of going out to consult Mr. Bromwood, but decided to wait until Hazlitt's plan should be fully disclosed, knowing that, in the event of a dismissal, he would have the right of appeal to the senior partner.

When he reached the store next morning some workmen were rigging a pulley and ropes to a beam that projected from the roof. The head of the ribbon department was watching them and Crown asked him what was to be done.

"They are going to take down that old device."

He referred to a large wooden representation of the hand holding balanced scales. Without waiting to hear any more Crown went to his place and took up his duties. He felt that his connection with the old and honored house was nearly at an end, for Hazlitt would not likely go so far as to take down the ancient sign without Mr. Bromwood's approval. The summons from the junior partner soon came and he responded promptly.

"Good morning, Mr. Crown," Hazlitt pleasantly greeted him. "Please take a chair and wait a few moments. I have sent for Mr. Zandon also."

While he waited Mr. Bromwood came into his own room and sat down at his desk. Hazlitt was not disturbed, nor did he show any disposition to postpone the interview. For the hundredth time Crown went over the reasons that induced him to decline his proposal. He could not see any way to justify an acceptance or to convince himself that the long respected house had not come upon evil days.

While he sat thinking Henry Robertson came into Mr. Bromwood's office. He was a wealthy banker and had been a boyhood and business friend of Crown's father. He had continued this friendship with the young man in a distant way, but had shown no interest in his progress beyond an occasional inquiry. He was reputed to be heartily in favor of modern methods and of pushing business to the utmost limit.

Crown saw that a matter of some importance was to be transacted, and, as Zandon had been sent for, it was likely that Robertson was the man whose influence he had secured. He had never thought of asking outside help to advance his position, and he might have had Mr. Robertson's for the asking. It occurred to him that perhaps he had put too much dependence upon faithfulness to his duties and loyalty to the principles of the house.

Zandon soon made his appearance with an air of confidence that depressed Crown. Hazlitt greeted him pleasantly; then, stepping to the communicating door, requested Mr. Bromwood to come into his office. Bidding Mr. Robertson sit still, the senior partner walked out, spoke to Zandon and Crown in his customary business manner, and sat down.

"Mr. Bromwood," Hazlitt began, "I have asked these two young men to come here to give their views regarding the move I explained to you yesterday. I am glad you can hear them."

"I shall listen with interest," Mr. Bromwood replied, briskly.

"Now, Mr. Zandon," said the junior partner, "have you decided upon any way to bring about the result I detailed to you yesterday?"

"Yes, sir, I think I have a plan that will completely outwit our rivals across the street. I have already invited the employe you spoke of to lunch with me today, and I know a way to get a hold on him so that he can't refuse to give me the name of that silk manufacturer and the price his firm paid for the output of last year. As soon as I have this information I'll be ready to start in an hour for the manufactory with your bid for the output of the next year. In addition, I have thought of this, and I suggest it for your consideration. Why couldn't we agree to pay this man a certain sum every year to stay over there and give us the inside of the firm's methods and plans? We could often forestall them on many lines of goods."

"What is your opinion of that plan, Mr. Bromwood?" asked Hazlitt, turning to the senior partner.

"A very well laid business manoeuver," was the reply, "if it will succeed."

"Oh, it will succeed," cried Zandon, proudly, "I'll make it succeed."

"You think, do you, that this line of silk would be an advantage to have on our counters?" Mr. Bromwood asked.

"Oh, well," said Zandon, with a shrug of his shoulders and a sly laugh, "the silk is not what it looks to be, but it catches the customers every time. It's a first class seller and money maker, and that's what we're all in business for, I take it."

"Mr. Crown," said Hazlitt, "you see I've given Mr. Zandon an equal chance with yourself. What plan have you to suggest?"

He leaned expectantly across his desk and Mr. Broomwood, re-adjusting his glasses, looked on with the critical attention of a shrewd business man. Crown rose from his chair, and walking slowly over to the junior partner's desk, said:

"I told you yesterday, Mr. Hazlitt, that I could not perform such a service for this house, and I have not changed my mind."

"Do you mean us to understand, Mr. Crown, that you do not feel competent to deal with our rivals?" Mr. Bromwood asked.

"No, sir, I do not wish you to understand that. What I mean is that I am not able—I should say, willing—to deal with them in the way Mr. Zandon proposes. If I have any suggestion to make, it is to keep the stuff they sell for silk as far from our counters as possible, and continue to give our customers that value for their money that has sustained the motto of the just poise."

"Then you have nothing better to propose than the old time way of doing business?" asked Hazlitt.

"You forget, don't you, Mr. Crown, that we are living in aggressive times?" Mr. Bromwood supplemented.

"No, sir, I do not. We can be aggressive without being dishonest, sir. Catchy methods may win for awhile, but I know that when the people of this city want to buy something good, sir, they come to Bromwood & Company. The best way we can fight that firm over there is to keep that old wooden device in plain sight over our door; but now that it is being torn down I have no hope that my plan will commend itself to you."

"Very well, then," said Mr. Bromwood, rising abruptly, as was his habit when a question was finally settled, "you will act according to our agreement, Mr. Hazlitt."

He went into his office. Hazlitt turned to Zandon and said:

"Mr. Zandon, I will send for you later in the day. I have something to say to Mr. Crown."

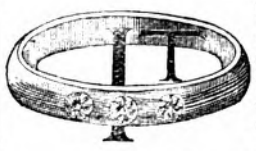
The young fellow went out triumphantly. Hazlitt rose from his desk, took up a folded paper, and came around to Crown.

"Give me the pleasure of shaking hands with you as our next junior partner, Mr. Crown," he said, with a smile. "Mr. Robertson is here ready to arrange the money side of the transaction for you. By the way, that old wooden design is being taken down, but only to be repainted and put back fresher and more securely than ever. Our business is to be carried on along the very lines you have so well mapped out this morning. But come into the other office; Mr. Bromwood and Mr. Robertson are waiting for us."

FOLLOWING A SCENT.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY HARRIET WALTON SEAVER.

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IS one continued hustle nowadays to get even within sight of the hill of fame, when so many clever fellows are on the alert for something by which to distinguish themselves and entitle them to a place even at the foot of the ladder among the crowd aspiring for the title of journalist.

And it does seem hard luck when a college bred man with the ordinary amount of ambition lacks the essential push and so drops out of the rush with the sigh "game not worth the candle" and sinks into the oblivion of an ordinary newspaper-reporter's life. But surely enough one thing, however unimportant in itself, leads to another, and this unsolved mystery concerning the disappearance of Lady Pierpont's three rubies offered me the long looked for opportunity of making a name for myself, perchance at the same time a "scoop" for my paper.

The events connected with the mysterious disappearance were these: While traveling in a private car from New York to San Francisco, between eight and nine o'clock on the evening after leaving the Metropolis, three perfect rubies of infinite value set in a heavy gold bracelet had been lost. The fact that none but the porter, maid, a Boston terrier (which Lady Pierpont had in charge for a friend) and the lady herself had entered the car was alone enough to rest suspicion on the two servants. The bracelet was found near the door of the car, where Lady Pierpont remembered having removed her jacket, but the stones had been dexterously taken from their settings.

The train was stopped, the car side-tracked and there they remained for twenty-four hours, until detectives of note had arrived and the maid and porter were placed under arrest.

Among other reporters I was sent out by the New York T——, but the affair seemed so unique,—not for a moment had either suspect left the car and yet not a trace of the jewels was to be found,—that I obtained permission of Lady Pierpont to remain on the spot and assist if possible in locating the missing stones. She was extremely irritable and to add to her unpleasant frame of mind, the dog had early that morning wandered off from the car and had not returned. This however, did not annoy her as it might, were she fond of dogs or had she not agreed to transport this one at the "owner's risk." The weather was extremely hot and whether it was our location or what we could not tell, but a most pungent odor arose toward night which stayed by us the rest of the trip, and the fact that the porter was the only one who did not apparently notice this made me regard him as too big a fool to be able to conceal jewels had he had wits enough to steal them; so I dismissed him from my suspicions and turned my attention to the maid.

And it was with no regret on my part when the officials declared Jim the guilty party and at once took him to the nearest jail. I congratulated myself on being left an open field—for it had been proven Jim hadn't the jewels on his person—where then were they but on the car?

We attached ourselves to the next train and were en route for San Francisco. But each day as the search became more fruitless the odor became more offensive. And each night about the same time I was awakened by sounds coming from the upper end of the car. I spoke of this to Lady Pierpont, but she was a heavy sleeper and saw no possible connection between this and her missing stones, so directly dismissed it from her mind.

However, I was determined to find out what this meant, and that night I crept from my

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apartment and concealed myself none too soon behind a portiere at the end of the car. Directly I heard the same sounds and some one chopping ice. Now what could the maid—for she was the only other person beside myself and her mistress in the car—what could she possibly want of ice at that precise time every night? and then the picking ceased and I heard a board crack almost behind me. In less time than it takes to tell, the whole apartment was filled with a most nauseating odor. And as I curiously passed out of my concealment I ran against the maid who, as surprised as I, rushed past me in an endeavor to escape me, but returned almost immediately, pushing a small bit of paper into my hand and breathlessly explaining that the porter, Jim, had given it to her on the eve of his arrest. It was too dark to read and as I slipped it into my pocket till I could get my bearings and strike a light the most unexpected of all things happened—the train lurched and jumped the track and I found myself deposited, with scarce a scratch save a bruised head and a twisted ankle, in a ditch.

To tell how I passed the next few hours would only be to dwell on the suffering of the more unfortunate than I, and not coming any nearer the solution of the mystery. Both Lady Pierpont and maid, among many others, were killed outright. And as I watched the wrecking hands here and there I pulled from my pocket a crumpled scrap of paper. Then the whole scene came back to me. The missing rubies and that sickening odor—and I read:

"I fed the dog the stones wrapped in pieces of meat. Dog died. Keep ice on body in corner of car so it won't smell strong. I'll get word to you later and divide."

A short time later with the assistance of the pungent odor, I discovered the dog's remains and after performing an intensely disagreeable operation extracted the jewels, of which I am the undisputed possessor today. And though they are valued up in the thousands each, not for worlds would I turn them into their cash value, for from that time all my ventures have been successful, due, I confidently believe to the talismanic power of the three rubies.

The Evil Eye of Lieutenant Melendy.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY GEORGE H. SMITH.

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AMONG the things which the dispatches from Manila did not report were the peculiar circumstances connected with the case of Lieutenant James Melendy.

This officer was in charge of a scouting party sent out from the town of Unatonga. The party was ambushed by a force of Tagalog natives, and several of the Americans were killed. Lieutenant Melendy and one private were taken prisoners. The remainder of the scouting party escaped, eventually getting back to Unatonga.

When the return of the last of the stragglers to camp made it certain that the lieutenant and one of his men were in the hands of the natives, the officer in command at Unatonga began energetic efforts to secure their release. A squad of men was sent out from the American outposts towards the Tagalog stronghold. At a suitable distance they were halted, and one man advanced alone, displaying a white handkerchief tied to the bayonet of the gun he carried. This man stopped a hundred yards in advance of his companions, and displayed his signal. After a considerable delay he was joined by a messenger from within the native lines. The result of these negotiations was the bringing of two letters to the American commander. One of these letters was from the natives, setting forth, in the Spanish language, that they would exchange Lieutenant Melendy for a young Tagalog leader named Arolan, who had been captured by the Americans some time before and kept in confinement at Unatonga. With this letter was a note from Lieutenant Melendy himself, begging that his rescue be hastened.

"Private Collins, who was captured with me, has already died of fever," he wrote, "and unless I can be exchanged I almost hope that I may go as he did. I am kept under a shed, tied by the legs to two posts, and never left without a guard. At night the Tagalogs, men and women both, gather around me and flourishing their *barongs*, tell what they are going to do with me if Arolan is not returned.

"Do not try to rescue me by force. My guards have orders to kill me rather than have me recaptured."

Two days after these letters were receiv[illegible] Unatonga answers to them we[illegible] the same way that the first communications had been sent. The reply to the Tagalog chief stated in Spanish that the representative of the American Government at Unatonga required more time to consider the matter of an exchange of prisoners.

The letter to Lieutenant Melendy was in English, which none of the Tagalogs could read. "Arolan has suddenly and most mysteriously disappeared," it said. "Until your letter was received we supposed he had escaped and returned home. Since we heard from you that he is not there we have had the town searched for him repeatedly, but to no purpose. Try and stave off the Tagalogs with some excuse, while we keep up the hunt; and don't lose courage."

That evening the natives gathered around the prisoner's shed, as usual, as the visitors to a park would have flocked to the cage of some strange new beast. Melendy wondered gloomily how long he could "stave them off," when he happened to see a man in the crowd holding a slim Malay game cock under each arm. There came to his mind an account which he had read in a current book of Philippine travels,* of how the writer had mystified a group of Filipinos by hypnotizing a native fowl. Every farmer's boy knows the trick.

"Give me that bird!" he said in Spanish. "I want to make *anting, anting*."

Anting anting is a Philippine term which is applied to the most powerful charms of which the natives can conceive.

The owner of the birds demurred, at first, but finally handed over one of them. The crowd pressed closer, curious, but half frightened. The officer took the wild-eyed, scared fowl, and tucking the bird's head beneath one wing swung him in a circle five times through the air. When he laid him down upon the ground the fowl might have been dead, for any sign of life he showed.

The natives looked on silently, but when Melendy reached for the other bird they shrank back to give him room. Slowly he swung this fowl like the other, the motions of his hand throwing great shadowy circles in the firelight. He stooped to put the dazed bird down, when——

"Arolan! Arolan!" A woman's voice cried out the name, as if in deadly fear, adding, a moment later, "Help him! Help him! Help him!"

It was the daughter of the Tagalog chief, sunk down on her knees among the other women, close by the posts to which the officer was hobbled. The woman's wide open eyes were full of fear, but it was not a fear of anything she saw close at hand. Her eyes were looking beyond the shed, and the fire, and the frightened natives, out through the darkness to something which they saw far away.

Lieutenant Melendy had been a medical student before the company of the National Guard to which he belonged had been called out, and he knew enough of hypnotism to recognize its subject.

"Where is Arolan?" he demanded of the woman, losing not a moment of time while her trance should last.

"He is in an old house. Canes wave around it. He is wounded and dying. I see him lying on the floor, and hear him groan for water. O help——" The voice grew fainter, and stopped. The speaker struggled to her feet and gazed about her curiously, wondering why her companions looked at her so strangely. All shrank back from the shed, and hurried away in the darkness to their thatched huts to talk in whispers of the white man's evil eye.

But the prisoner, before he slept that night, wrote by the light of the watch fire a letter to the American commander, giving a full and careful account of what had happened.

"Perhaps this will not amount to anything," he wrote. "What happened may have been merely the hysterics of a half-wild girl. It is possible, though, that this was one of those rare instances which come to hint to us the existence of powers or forces which are not yet understood. It may mean much to me, or nothing."

The next morning it was not easy to find a messenger to carry this letter to Unatonga. The natives were divided between fear of what would happen to them if they took it, and fear of what the wonder-working writer of the epistle might do to them if they refused to take it. Finally a Tagalog warrior who was the possessor of an unusually powerful *anting anting* consented to go.

Before the courier started the lieutenant added a postscript. "I find my performance of last night," he wrote, "has gained for me the reputation of having an evil eye. It is said I have bewitched the chief's daughter, who, it seems, was to marry Arolan. Her father, the Tagalog chief, is not here now, but unless Arolan shows up before the chief returns it is easy to see my finish. I could wish it had been different, but it is all for the same thing in the end."

There followed some messages to be sent back to his home in the States; one to his father, and one to a young woman who was reading eagerly each day's Philippine dispatches in the daily papers. It was hard for the lieutenant to write the last few sentences, but not half so hard as it was for his commander to read them.

Three days later the Tagalogs were gathered about the prison shed to see the American officer die. The native chief had come home. To him, trying the keenness of his *barong's* edge, a sentinel came running with word that

*Dean Worcester's.

HAVE WOMEN SOULS?

"If women have no souls to save—as some sects teach—is there to be no salvation for their bodies?"

"Even when Nature, who does make horrible blunders, has decreed that motherhood shall be life-long invalidism and misery, if not death-dealing, still most women more or less cheerfully do their duty in the sphere in which man is willing they should live."—THE GENTLEWOMAN.

The writer in *The Gentlewoman* is only voicing a widely accepted theory in the statement that "Nature has decreed that motherhood shall be life-long invalidism and misery, if not



GRACE DARLING A FINE EXAMPLE OF THE SOULLESS (!) WOMAN.

death-dealing." But it is a bold challenge to Nature, to say that "*she makes horrible blunders.*"

"Are God and Nature then at strife, that Nature lends such evil dreams?"

If there be one woman in all the world who has found the result of maternity to be not "life-long invalidism and misery" but life-long happiness and health, then that woman takes up the challenge thrown down to Nature. But more than this. If there were but one woman who had been emancipated from the sufferings of her sex, who had been led out of that darkened chamber to which each month condemned her, who had been rescued from invalidism and misery as a consequence of motherhood, then that one woman stands as type of the possibility of health to every other woman.

AN ARMY OF WOMEN.

There is an army of 500,000 women, representing in their ranks every form and place of female weakness, so-called, from mere irregularity in the young woman to chronic disease of the womb involving complications that have kept the victim practically bed-ridden for ten or even fifteen years, and every one of these has been perfectly and permanently cured. Expressions such as "I am a new woman!" "I never knew what it was to live before!" "I am gone back again to be robust and rosy-cheeked as in youth!" "I have never been able to save a child before; now I have the brightest of healthy babies!" "I scarcely suffered at all with my last child; it was wonderful,"—such expressions teem in the thousands of letters received from grateful women in the past thirty years.

Mrs. Carrie B. Donner, of Dayton, Green Co., Wis., writes: "I can highly recommend Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription—having taken it for nine months previous to confinement. I suffered scarcely any compared with what I had at other times."

Mrs. Annie Blacker, 629 Catherine Street, Syracuse, N. Y., writes: "Your medicines have done wonders for me. For years my health was very poor. I had four miscarriages, but since taking Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription and 'Golden Medical Discovery' I have much better health, and now I have a fine healthy baby."

And who has wrought this deliverance for women? What means have brought about these many cures?

The work has been done by Dr. R. V. Pierce, chief consulting physician of the Invalids' Hotel and Surgical Institute, Buffalo, N. Y. The general means has been the use of Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription, supplemented by his special advice where special difficulties had to be overcome.

The endeavor to do what has never been done before with a proprietary medicine, adapt it to individual needs and peculiar cases, was the origin of the offer of *free consultation by letter* with Dr. Pierce.

The medical profession has only a few leaders. The mass of the doctors are followers. They cannot originate. They follow somebody else in method of treatment and in the use of medicines. For this reason they cannot make allowance for the variations of individual temperaments which are so important a feature in the treatment of diseases of women. They treat all alike. Delicate, nervous,

FINELY FIBERED WOMEN

are treated without any consideration of the difference between them and the more coarsely organized of their sex. And in this way women are often treated for the wrong disease. When the womb is affected various nervous [illegible] possible, even insanity. Unless practitioners treat the patient for the disorder, not appreciating the real cause.

J. S. Carlisle, Esq., of Manchester, Coffee Co., Tenn., writes: "I have been using your medicines for the last sixteen or eighteen years in my Poor House. I am superintendent of the Coffee County Poor House and Asylum combined. Your 'Favorite Prescription,' 'Golden Medical Discovery,' and 'Pleasant Pellets,' are the best medicines for the diseases for which they are recommended that I ever used. They saved my wife's life at the time of 'change of life'. I also cured the worst case of lunacy that we ever had with your 'Favorite Prescription.' The case had been under the doctor's care for three years. I used your medicine about seven or eight months and the patient was as well as she ever was in her life. This was *nine* years ago, and she is still in good health."

Dr. Pierce is a leader, not a follower. He has devoted more than thirty years to the treatment and cure of diseases of women. He is head of one of the most important medical institutions in the land. People come from all over the country to be treated at the Invalids' Hotel and Surgical Institute, at Buffalo, N. Y. To meet these demands, Dr. Pierce has gathered about him a medical staff of nearly a score of physicians. These men are all specialists in some branch of medicine or surgery.

A GREAT OFFER FREE.

You are offered a free consultation by letter with Dr. Pierce, and this means that you are offered *free* the best medical skill in the country. You could get high class medical service and advice in many another institution. But high class is high price, and few people can spare the money to consult the skilled specialists of great institutions.

If these facts are as stated, if the claims above made are true, there is no reason for another year of suffering for you. Are you a sufferer every month? You can be cured. Do you suffer daily with aching back, bearing-down pains, the miseries of mind and body which



THE SOULLESS (!) WOMAN AT SANTIAGO.

follow diseases of the womb and other organs of generation? You can be cured. There are only two chances in a hundred that your cure will not be perfect and life-lasting. There are ninety-eight chances in a hundred that you will enter on a new period of existence.

All this can come to you at very little cost, without any of the unpleasant questionings, the offensive examinations and obnoxious local treatments deemed necessary by many local practitioners. You can begin with "Favorite Prescription," today; or you can write a letter to Dr. Pierce and make a plain statement of your case. In either case you take the first step to health when you begin Dr. Pierce's treatment. Address Dr. R. V. Pierce, Invalids' Hotel and Surgical Institute, Buffalo, N. Y.

Accept no substitute for Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription. A substitute medicine means a big profit for the dealer, and nothing at all for you, because the promises made for Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription do not and cannot apply to an imitation or substitute. There is no alcohol contained in Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription, neither opium, cocaine nor other narcotic.

A GREAT GIFT.

Dr. Pierce's Common Sense Medical Adviser is sent *free* on receipt of stamps to defray expense of mailing *only*. This great work contains 1008 pages and over 700 illustrations. It is a guide to health and happiness, and should be included in the library of every household. Send 21 one-cent stamps (to pay expense of mailing *only*) for the paper-bound book or 31 stamps for the book bound in durable cloth. Address Dr. R. V. Pierce, Buffalo, N. Y.

a party of white soldiers were come in sight. "They are waving a white flag," the man said, adding, "they are hurrying up the hill, far this side the usual meeting place."

"Send men to meet them," the chief said, and waited.

Arolan was found. "The Tagalog girl saw him, all right enough," the message to Melendy said. "We found him in an abandoned native hut, in the cane brake outside the town. He had almost gone free, one night, but a picket saw some one creeping towards the brake, and fired, having no thought it was any one but a scout, and not knowing in the darkness, afterwards, if his shot had hit its mark. Arolan, wounded, was able to drag himself into this hut and lie there. Although a young man, and strong, it is a miracle he was not dead before we found him. I see no reason now why he should not recover, though, and write his chief with this that if you are still alive he shall be sent home as soon as able. God grant this may not be too late."

A week later two parties met half way between the American and Filipino lines, and the convalescent Arolan, borne upon a litter, was exchanged for Lieutenant Melendy. Before the Tagalog party passed out of sight, the lieutenant, looking back, saw a young woman run down the hill to meet it. When she reached the litter she knelt beside it and clasped the wounded man upon it in her arms.

The Eagles on the Shoulder Straps.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY COL. PRENTISS INGRAHAM.

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CAN a woman love two men at the same time, honestly truly love two, and feel indifferent as to which should call her wife?

"It is a question that has fairly broken its way within my heart, and within the hour.

"Only a short time since Carrol Ames held my hand, and asked me to be his wife. I loved him, I still love him, and the answer was almost given, when suddenly before me appeared Frank Farral, coming, I knew, to ask me the same question.

"I did not answer the one as I had intended; I could not, so hastily bade him wait until he returned from Cuba with an eagle on his epaulettes, and slipped my ring upon his finger.

"Poor fellow! He mentioned something about how he would win the eagles or lose his life, and hastened away as Frank Farral entered the room. I knew he had taken my answer as a pledge.

"Then came the story of love, the same request from Frank Farral to become his wife, and again a 'Yes' quivered on my lips, when, was it prophetic, a shadow fell between us and it seemed that I saw the outstretched hand of Carrol Ames. Thus I gave the response as to the other one, and placed my bracelet upon his wrist.

"He too took it as an acceptance, and tomorrow they sail to Cuba, both officers in the same regiment, both splendid noble fellows; and which one do I love? Some way my heart tells me that I will marry one of these men, or——"

The beautiful girl, for she was beautiful in face and form, stood by the window where she had parted first with one, then with the other of the two young officers, rivals with many others in the pursuit of her hand and heart, the former carrying a fortune with it.

A brilliant society butterfly, never before had she been forced to analyze her own heart as on that day, and as the twilight gathered about her, she could not but feel that she had acted both the tyrant and the coward, for had she not sent two brave men forth to win her by the price she had set upon her love—the eagle upon their shoulder straps.

She was a coquette; she played with the hearts of honest men for the pleasure it gave her; but now in the gloaming the shadows gathering without seemed creeping into her heart until, with a shudder she walked rapidly to another room where the bright gas-light dispelled the gloom, and from her lips came the bold words:

"If I have done wrong I accept my fate."

* * * * * *

Two men, splendid specimens of perfect manhood, white-faced, fearless, determined, awaiting in line of battle for the word that must soon come, to storm the Spanish stronghold beyond the dense foliage in which their regiment lay concealed, crouching before the charge that must end in the death grapple.

One of these two officers was Carrol Ames, the other Frank Farral, both of them that day in command of a battalion. The two were beloved by their brother officers, idolized by their men, and it was generally prophesied that they would fight their way rapidly up the difficult ladder of promotion, or find a grave in Cuba.

They had been the best of friends until a woman's hand came between them, and friendship is but a name where love rules heart and brain. Each man had left home believing he had won the love of a true woman, though she had not then told them in so many words. Each man felt a sympathy then, as *Death's* dark wing was hovering over them, for the other, and Frank Farral stepped quickly to where his one time friend stood some distance apart from all others, extended his hand and said earnestly:

"Carrol, old fellow, let us be friends now, for frankly I confess had you won the love of Lucille Bruce instead of I, my hand would have been offered in warmest congratulation."

Carrol Ames regarded him with a look of intense surprise mingled with indignation, and the silence that followed was at last broken by the low uttered words:

"*Had I won?* Great God, man! *I did* win, *you* lost!"

"Do you mean to assert that you won the love of Lucille Bruce who is pledged to me?"

"I mean that as far as woman can do so without words, Frank Farral, Lucille Bruce pledged herself to me, told me to come back to her wearing a Colonel's rank on my shoulder straps—and see I wear her ring and——"

"Say no more, Ames, for I believe you, and let me add that to-day will be the one for you to win your eagles—or death.

"We have got to charge a steep rugged hill ahead of us, upon which the Spaniards are intrenched, and orders are simply to take it."

"I am aware of what our orders are and what my duty is, sir."

"Doubtless, but let me suggest that the Spaniards' flag on the staff at the hill top is a trophy well worth having, and the man who pulls it down goes a long way toward winning rapid promotion. *I* intend to strive for that flag, as a souvenir of Cuba to bear back to our home and lay it at the feet of the fair Lucille—do you dare follow me, Carrol Ames?"

The tone was cold, cynical, the words pointed to inflame a brave man to a desperate act.

"Dare I follow you? *I* shall lead, follow if *you* dare."

These words came through shut teeth, and with a smile Frank Farral returned to the head of his men, having uttered no word after the first to prove what he deemed his claim for the love of Lucille Bruce.

He had seen and recognized the ring worn by Carrol Ames as one he had often seen upon Lucille's engagement finger and it was proof that the girl was playing one of them false.

Her bracelet was still upon his right arm, caught back out of sight, but now he allowed it to drop down around his wrist in full view, and a valuable trinket it was.

Suddenly a General and his staff rode along the line and disappeared in the distance. He had only said: "Stand ready men! there is deadly work cut out for you!"

Then came the clear notes of the bugle sounding the advance, and every officer grasped his sword hilt, every man his rifle, while orders ran from lip to lip.

On marched the men, and the rattle of the Mausers was heard ahead, then the lines increased their step to a double quick, and loudly with thrilling and forboding notes the bugle sounded the charge and the deadly assault was begun.

* * * * * *

The Spanish stronghold had been won at the sword and bayonet point, and where revolvers and clubbed rifles played their part in the orgie of death.

All the way up the steep hillside, dead and wounded men lay scattered, and on the summit there were ghastly heaps of Spanish dead while American soldiers panting like hounds had thrown themselves down to rest after victory well and dearly won.

Amid the heap of Spanish dead lay an American officer wearing the number of his regiment. Another officer, with his hand clutching the Spanish flag he had hauled down from its staff, stood near, sadly gazing down upon the slain. Stooping, he took from the body of the dead a few valuables and ordered:

"Throw the colors over him men, for never man died more bravely, and he fell with the Spanish flag almost within his grasp."

"But you had already cut the flag down, sir, and those who saw you say you'll get your eagles for this day's work, Captain," and a cheer answered the words of the enthusiastic soldier.

* * * * * *

Echoing through the silent streets of the city of the Dead was heard the music of a band as it led the way toward an open grave. The tramp, tramp of soldiers was heard, and in their midst was carried a flag-covered coffin. Behind them came many carriages, for a hero was being buried, his remains sent from Cuba to find resting place in the family burying ground, and many kindred and friends were there to mourn him dead.

The rifles rattled a farewell volley over the grave, a bugle plaintively sounded "taps" and the vast concourse turned away from the mound now hidden beneath flowers.

One carriage turned out of the retreating line, was halted some distance off, and a woman deeply veiled retraced her way to the hero's grave. There she stood with bowed head, and toward her, from the shelter of some foliage came a man in full uniform.

She heard his steps when close at hand, started, and throwing back her veil she extended her hand:

"Why Major Farral——"

"Colonel, Miss Bruce, for I received my Colonelcy of Volunteers three days ago."

"Allow me to congratulate you upon winning your eagles so quickly, but I supposed you were in Cuba."

"A wound gained for me two months' leave; but permit me to say I need no congratulations, Miss Bruce, above the grave of my murdered friend."

"Murdered! I have heard how nobly poor Captain Ames died leading a charge, or rather how he followed *you* up that terrible hill—it makes me shudder; but why do you say he was murdered?"

"He was, by the two who now stand by his grave, *you* and *I*, Lucille Bruce, for you sent him to face death, as you did me, within an implied pledge of love, and I knew it from his lips, and dared him to follow where I led. He did follow, and lost his life while I am spared.

"Here is the ring you gave him, and at your feet I fling the bracelet given me as a silent pledge of love, for you are not worthy the love we two gave you."

He threw the bracelet at her feet, she having mechanically taken the ring, and like one in a dream saw him walk away.

Picking up the bracelet she turned from the grave, almost reeling at first; but entering her carriage, said sternly to the coachman:

"Home!"

The ring and bracelet are seen to-day upon the hand of Lucille Bruce, but her beautiful face wears a saddened look, for she has learned her bitter lesson well and though

"Smiles may tremble on her lips
Tears are in her heart."

OUTWITTED BY PEGGY.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY MARGARET SPENCER.

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ANOTHER Census! The same rush, push and agony to "get in." I thought the last one ten years ago would kill me, but here it is; ten thousand women begging, weeping and asking for help! I wouldn't mind, but not half of them need the places and only keep deserving ones out."

Tom Seward was literary. He was an elect of old "Newspaper Row," at the capital—was a great power in editorial rooms, correspondent of the "Spouting Horn," "Breezy War," and sent live messages from Congress to the east and west. Wrote fine "Leaders," prophesied nobly on "what's to turn up next!" When particularly solid and good he dashed off spiritual articles for the "church" and "church union." Even odes and sonnets fell gently from his pen.

He was a power in Newspaper Row—and in his bachelor home on a beautiful avenue at the capital, an ideal undisputed head. But for once he was outwitted. Nobody knew just when this home came into existence. One wintry day it sprang into light and life. The first night was dark outside, but through yellow silk curtains leaped the gold and crimson firelight; visions of books and pictures, swift flutterings of a soft gown and curls. The other boys in the row said "lucky Tom! a sister to make his home beautiful." Tom said "Yes, my youngest sister Peggy, the last of the flock, uncalled for."

Tom was ten years older, perhaps wiser than ten years ago, but his opinions on the census were the very same.

On this particular evening with a storm outside, but Paradise within, Tom lay on the pretty home-made divan, Peggy's pride, smoking his cigar, while his sister deftly slipped the scarlet wool over her white fingers as she knitted a spread for the divan—for red was Tom's color.

"Did you know Tom that Mary Wright and Sue Jones had received their appointments?"

"Appointments to what?"

"Why the Census, of course!"

"What in thunder Peg do you know or care about the Census? It's to be hoped those girls will fail to get places and many more as silly as they."

"But Tom, how splendid to earn money and be independent; able to help the poor and do a world of good."

"There are other ways of doing good Peggy. Can't you see how these women with homes and comfortable means fill the places needed by widows, orphans and the hundreds of struggling girls and wives; some, who by their work support families?"

A great silence fell upon the two.

"Tom—"

"Well Peg—"

"I am going to try and get into the Census in July!"

"The devil!"

"No, the Census!"

"Elizabeth Maria Seward!" Tom rose from the divan, and slammed himself into a chair by the fire, for the evening was chilly.

"I'm in dead earnest Tom, the senator from our old home has promised to give me one of his six appointments as soon as I pass the examinations."

Tom looked fully seven feet as he stood before his little yellow-haired sister.

"Peggy, I shall never consent to any such thing! You may cry and moan and pray and get into tantrums, but right here I draw the line. You! with every comfort, a beautiful home, begging a government position to work from 9 till 4 like a factory girl!"

The scarlet yarn ran swiftly through Peggy's fingers, as she quietly replied—

"Ladies work in all public offices, Tom."

"Of course they do! Noble womenly women, earn their daily bread and carry the burdens of needy, loved ones all through life. I honor them and work for them, that's the devil of it all! scraps of girls like you, queens of their homes, with abundance of means, filling the places needed by the army of less fortunate ones. I blush for any man who will allow his mother, wife, sweetheart or sister to draw from Uncle Sam one dollar, so long as he has health and brains to give them a home and the comforts of life. These girls Peggy use their money for furbelows and stuff!"

Another silence.

"Tom, dear, do you think the examinations are very difficult?"

Tom turned his head and took one sharp look at his sister's blue eyes and curly head, for very wonder at this audacious question after his fierce, decisive remarks. He actually smiled and asked sarcastically.

"How are you Peg on compound interest and partial payments, and where is Alaska or Idaho?"

The doorbell gave a furious ring. An imperative message from Newspaper Row. Tom banged the door and was gone.

The seeds of ambition for some reason had sprung up in Peggy's heart, and when wise Tom supposed that they, like Jonah's gourd, would soon perish, he was mistaken. She looked in the hall mirror, tucked Tom's big umbrella under her arm, pushed her curls severely back off her face, and said slowly, "Peg we'll try."

Long after midnight Tom dashed into his room, packed his bag and gathered together his papers.

"Peggy darling, off for Boston. Joe is very ill, must take his desk in Herald office; may be gone a month; get old Ellen to stay with you; have a good time child, and write me every day."

With two arms about his neck, curls tucked down on his breast, the softest, sweetest kisses on his lips, he only said:

"Good bye—sweet Peg—good bye—" with never a thought of Census appointments, again.

"Tom—oh, Tom stop a minute," called Peggy.

"Well, what is it?" shouted back Tom.

"You won't mind, will you? if I—if I pass—"

"No, no," and as Tom jumped on the car, he muttered: "pass—pass fiddlesticks! the darling goose, bless her! She's only talking to see what I'll say."

Tom said he didn't mind.

Peggy slipped off her wrapper, and hopped into bed with a smile.

"Yes—Peg—you and I will get into the Census!"

Six busy weeks for Tom in the Herald office. Six very busy interesting weeks for his little sister in Washington. Her examinations were royally passed, her appointment made with short delay and the quiet dignified Miss Elizabeth Seward gave entire satisfaction to her chief, and—to Peggy.

Newspaper Row and Tom's club gossiped a little; made wry faces and frowned; but Tom was out of their reach; and as for Tom's sister none thought it best to criticise.

"Joe Grey" came back to his desk, and Tom was going home.

"Seward," said one of the Boston Staff. "Know an Elizabeth Seward of Washington? maybe kin of yours?"

"Well," replied Tom, "rather near kin! What about her?"

Tom read the item in the morning Herald:

"Miss Elizabeth Seward, a young, beautiful Washington girl who has been from the first greatly interested with Mrs. John Russell Young, in the room for the blind, in the new library, has become a member of the society, and yesterday, placed in the home at her own expense, a lovely child—totally blind, whose mother is an invalid, and wholly without means. Miss Seward is one of our most enthusiastic workers in this good cause."

"How the deuce did Peg manage to save enough for that outlay. Queer she didn't consult me!" and all the way to Washington Tom thought upon this "fad" of Peggy's.

Never such a welcome home! never so beautiful a little sister, and good dinner, and sunshiny home!

"Peg you darling, tell me how you managed. I would have sent you more money, if you'd have let me into the secret."

"Tom, I earned money enough."

"Earned it."

"Yes, I've had one month's pay, and shall soon have another—and——"

"Peggy—did—you—did you——"

"Yes! you precious old stubborn Tom I *did!* I *am* a Census clerk! and you love me all the more! Don't you see how I am improved?"

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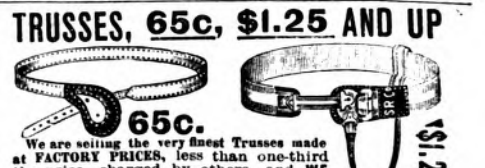
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ROEBUCK & Co. CHICAGO

CURRENT TOPICS IN AMERICAN HISTORY.



FOR several months, in fact, since the commencement of our late war, COMFORT has been giving short epitomes of the current history of America in connection with the war itself and the after events which were in themselves a part of the war. America by the outcome of this struggle has taken such an advanced position among the nations of the world that it is no longer possible to relate only those events which happen within our own borders to record the passing history of the Great Republic. For this reason, for a time at least, COMFORT will in each number publish a brief *resume* of the more important events in the happenings of the world, which more or less directly influence the history of our own country. Without a tempting so serious a work as a general history of our times, it will be COMFORT'S endeavor to point out some of the more important matters and to give its readers such information in a concise form as will enable them to understand some of the articles which are daily seen in the newspapers.

The entire American press has been full of Admiral Dewey for the past month and pictures of him in every possible pose, position and uniform have appeared on every hand. The country has been almost carried off its feet by this outbreak of Dewey enthusiasm. It is to be remembered that few people under forty years of age have the slightest recollection of the Civil War, its heroes and its battles. The Spanish War is the first conflict that a very large proportion of our citizens have been brought in contact with. Had the war lasted longer we should have looked at its events with more discrimination and have judged the events more evenly. As a matter of fact there has been a constant exaggeration of the late conflict largely brought about by sensational and modern journalism which seems to delight in magnifying most unimportant events. But to return to the central figure. Never in ancient or modern times in the whole history of the world has a returning conqueror been received by his people with the enthusiasm and applause that has greeted Admiral Dewey.

As has been told in these columns, he returned from Manila in a leisurely fashion, being received with the highest honors at every stopping place on his route, and finally leaving Gibraltar for the run to this side to be in season for his reception in New York, which was planned to take place September 29-30. As the Admiral himself remarked he has always had a habit of being a day or two early instead of an hour behind, and so to the surprise of every one the stately *Olympia* sailed into New York harbor early one morning just two days earlier than expected. From this moment the pent up enthusiasm was let loose and every kind of honor that patriotism could suggest was shown the hero of the day.



ADMIRAL GEORGE DEWEY.

The naval and land parades taking place on the days scheduled and the fireworks and electrical displays in the evening so far surpassed anything of the kind in modern history that there seems nothing to compare them with. Among the gorgeous decorations was the Triumphal Arch which appears at the head of this article, a free gift from the artists of the city. It is hoped that this wonderful piece of statuary will be reproduced in permanent form in place of the perishable material of which it was formed.

After the grand display in New York Admiral Dewey went to Washington where he was as enthusiastically received as the Nation's guest as he had been in New York itself. There is no doubt that the President has eagerly sought his advice in the Philippine question and that the result of these interviews will soon be apparent. Much to the surprise of many people, who hoped it would be otherwise, Admiral Dewey while not friendly to General Otis, seems to be the strongest supporter of expansion and does not hesitate to say that neither Cuban nor Filipinos are as yet prepared for self-government. It is to be regretted that the physical strain of the past two years and the further excitement of this remarkable reception have somewhat told upon his health.



EX-SENATOR J. W. BRADBURY.

Although the world has been flooded with pictures of Admiral Dewey, COMFORT is certain that the latest photograph which is here reproduced will please our readers and give them a correct idea of his present appearance.

Speaking of remarkable men we are reminded of the successful career of a statesman from the fact that he was recently indisposed, although rallying with remarkable vigor. Hon. James Ware Bradbury of Augusta, Maine, is a phenomenal figure in America's history and a man whose life brings us in touch with some of the most remarkable men in our own history. Senator Bradbury was born over ninety-seven years ago and went to the little red school house in a Maine village, afterwards studying at Parsonsfield Academy. In the class of 1825 at Bowdoin were graduated a number of distinguished men afterwards famous in literary and political life. Among the number were Franklin Pierce, afterwards President of the United States; Longfellow, the poet; Hawthorne, the author, and many others. Of this famous class Mr. Bradbury was a member. He came to Augusta as a young man and embarked in the profession of law.

From his success in this line he became a noted democratic leader in New England, and was elected to the United States Senate from Maine in the days of the great giants of debate and oratory, Clay, Benton, Calhoun, Webster. Since his retirement from Congress he has taken active interest in public affairs and no later than in the campaign of 1896 proclaimed himself in favor of a gold standard in a letter which for logic, power and vigor of thought was unsurpassed by any document of the campaign. Friends all over the Union hope that the grand old man may survive beyond the century mark.

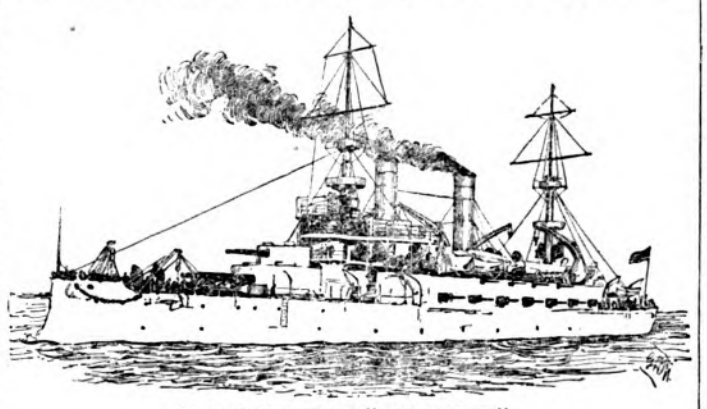
The success of our navy in the Spanish war, and especially the magnificent reception of Admiral Dewey, have stimulated the great interest which was already felt in everything pertaining to our navy. The completion of two of the latest battleships of the new navy, in connection with the return of the great Admiral, cannot help calling to mind the men and material that form our navy, and which together have placed it in the high standing which it now occupies among the navies of the world. From a low class naval power, the United States within ten years has risen so rapidly that last year she stood fourth in the list of the naval powers of the world, a position which, so far as actual numerical strength is concerned, she will probably hold for some time, as but two nations are building ships faster than we are with the exception of Great Britain, whose policy always is to have a fleet equal to the combined fleets of any other two nations. But notwithstanding the inferiority in point of numbers, it is doubtful if any nation except Great Britain has really the naval power that the United States has at the present time. Last month the Kearsarge, the first of the two great battleships recently built, had her official trial and surprised both the contractors and the Government by making much more than the necessary contract time on this trip. By this performance she stamped herself as one of the swiftest battleships in the world.



CANDIDATE JOHN R. MCLEAN.

Our readers may often see accounts of official trials, and may not exactly know what is meant by some of the terms. In all European nations, a trial of any warship is made over a course of one measured mile, and figured out from that basis. By these means the engineers are able to "bottle up" steam until it reaches more than the desired pressure and then make a spurt for the one mile; but the tests of the United States Government are much more exacting, as the test has to be measured over an ocean course on a sustained speed of four hours, and including at least one complete turn instead of straight away. By these means, although these ships often reach a mile burst which would entitle them in any foreign navy to a rating of 20 knots or more an hour, the average for the four hours will bring them down to between 16 and 17 knots; so that although on paper it might seem that many English or French ships were much faster than the United States ships of the same class, it is undoubtedly true that the American ships on sustained speed excel anything built, and it is a question if any battleship could on a short race prove itself the superior. No battleship in the world has ever equalled the wonderful performance of the Oregon in her wonderful race around the Horn at a sustained speed.

The Kearsarge, which is shown in our illustration, is one of the most complete battleships in the world besides having immense battery strength, her weight has been greatly reduced by the double turret system which is an innovation. By this means her eight-inch guns are superimposed on the turret containing the thirteen-inch guns, so that the equipment for these turrets only weighs about two-thirds what it would if it were four distinct turrets. Other vessels, notable in their special classes, which are being built will be described at another time.



U. S. BATTLESHIP "KEARSARGE".

The preliminary skirmishes on the line of the great presidential contest which will take place next summer have already commenced. From the general appearance of the field at this time President McKinley is practically sure of the Republican nomination by acclamation. On the democratic side Mr. Bryan is again in the lead, though many of the party including the old "Gold democrats" desire to take another man. Much talk has been made for Admiral Dewey to stand as a candidate on account of his great popularity; but there is a general feeling that he is not in politics, although great pressure has been brought to bear on him since his return.

Otherwise it looks as if the two tickets of 1900 would be headed the same as four years ago. Vice President Hobart is not as well as his friends would wish and there have been many reports as to the nature and seriousness of the illness which have been met by the official announcement that he merely needs rest from overwork, and that he will both preside in the Senate this winter and be a candidate for the position again. If this prove true, the Republican nominations can hardly fail being the same. Whether General Sewall of Maine who ran with Mr. Bryan is again desirous of the nomination is unknown. He is a ship builder with large business interests and probably in his present time of prosperity is not thinking much of political advancement.

The most exciting campaign in a political sense is that being waged in the home state of President McKinley, Ohio. Here are three candidates, all doing effective work. The one who is being most considered is John McLean, the democratic candidate for Governor. The consequences of his election are appreciated on both sides as it is claimed his election would be looked on as a public disapproval of the administration's course in the Philippines and prove an opening gun in the next campaign. On the other hand it is believed that his election also means that he would be a most formidable rival for Col. Bryan for the democratic nomination for the presidency, while his defeat would insure a solid Bryan delegation from Ohio in the convention. Mr. McLean is a young man of much political experience and a leader in his party. He owns the *Cincinnati Enquirer* and with its influence and his great wealth has been a political power in Ohio for a number of years.

Aside from the Ohio campaign there are a number of minor contests going on in various States, none of which may be said to be of a national character although the probable issues of the next year appear in all. The nearest approach to it is the State contest in Nebraska, which only assumes magnified proportions from the fact that Col. Bryan has been on the stump himself and his daily speeches to large crowds are supposed to show the line of the next campaign. The general tone is anti-imperialism and anti-trusts. It is a singular thing but a National Campaign is seldom fought on the lines laid down a year ahead. Either the conditions change or some accident projects an unthought-of issue into the arena, and what was to have been the main question is entirely lost sight of. When Gen. Hancock was a nominee through a natural utterance on the tariff, the entire fight shifted from his war record to that issue in a week. So, too, only in 1896 the entire preliminary skirmishes had been based on tariff, which was entirely lost sight of by the unexpected appearance of the "16 to 1" silver question.

By this and many other instances it will be seen that the change of the Philippine situation which may take place any time might take away every ground that now exists for making that the one question of the campaign. What is true of that is also true of commercial questions; so, at present, it can hardly be said that definite lines of party division are as yet laid down.

The condition in the Philippines is about the same. The rainy season has about ceased and small expeditions are now being sent out from Manila occasionally, evidently with the intention of breaking up camps of insurgents. There are no organized battles fought but the columns of troops after a little skirmishing drive the insurgents and apparently break up their camps. Extended campaigns are not as yet practicable but the government is rapidly pushing forward reinforcements and supplies. There seems to be no doubt that it is intended to crush the forces of Aguinaldo before spring. Rumors of all kinds circulate in our press so that it is hard to determine the exact condition of matters in those islands. This is particularly true from the fact that almost everything under the present condition is tinged with politics. It would be much better to subdue the enemy first, then talk afterwards. The fact that Aguinaldo has released American prisoners and evidently desires recognition by this or some other government does not give the appearance that he is over-confident of a successful result for his cause. It is doubtful if his army would be in existence were it not buoyed up with the belief that American support and sympathy is rapidly growing for them, a report that is systematically encouraged and causes them to persevere in this rebellion.

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The "5 Drops" has proven itself wonderful for its curative power in Rheumatism, not as a Temporary Reliever only, but to give a Permanent Cure even in chronic cases. Sometime ago, I had among others several Rheumatic cases, under my treatment and prescribed for these patients the very best Remedies which I skillfully selected, but without desirable results. I then heard of "5 Drops" and of its Wonderful Cures, and prescribed it to a few patients who found relief from its use within a few days. After that I prescribed it to a great number and to my surprise, I will say that in the course of Two or Three Weeks after they had used "5 Drops" and "5 Drop" Plasters they were Cured.

Among these were a few who had, for a number of years, been suffering with Chronic Rheumatism, who had piloted themselves around on Crutches. They came to my office without Crutches and told me they were perfectly Well. They give all the credit to "5 Drops" and to "5 Drop" Plasters and this is their testimony to the Swanson Rheumatic Cure Company for their kindness and for the conscientious way in which they are placing these Wonderful Remedies among suffering humanity, which they told me to write to the Company as an acknowledgement.

As I have seen the Curative Power of "5 Drops" and "5 Drop" Plasters, in a great many instances, I can Truly recommend them and also that the firm is perfectly honest and reliable to deal with. C. A. Jackson, Physician and Surgeon, Kearney, Neb., Aug., 29, 1899.

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(Sears, Roebuck & Co. are thoroughly reliable.—Editor.)

Men, Women and Things.

CONDUCTED BY JENNIE MELVENE DAVIS.



Rear Admiral Farquhar who relieved Rear Admiral Sampson of the command of the home squadron in October was the hero of the navy ten years ago. The men who have won fame through the war with Spain have held the attention of the public but Farquhar proved himself of the stuff from which heroes are made. It was he who commanded the flagship Frenton when the great storm in the Samoan harbor of Apia, wrecked six vessels and drowned one hundred and forty officers and men. The Frenton dragged her anchors and was drifting on the rocky shore when Admiral Farquhar ordered the entire crew into the rigging. The human sail kept the boat in position. Two American ships were drifting helplessly in the grasp of the hurricane when Farquhar ordered the flagship's band on deck and cheered the hearts of the Americans by the strains of the "Star Spangled Banner" that rose above the roar and crash of the awful storm. Again he led the Frenton's men when they cheered the British ship Calliope as it fought its way to the open sea. The Frenton was wrecked but the entire crew were saved and the brave commander was raised to the rank of Commodore and given the important part of the command of the Bureau of Yards and Docks. Admiral Farquhar was born in Pennsylvania and is now fifty-nine years of age. His first active service was on the African coast in an attempt to suppress the slave trade. While only a midshipman he captured a slaver. He served with credit during the Civil War and until 1871 was constantly at sea. He has had two assignments at the Naval Academy. He has been successively Commandant of the League Island Navy Yard at Philadelphia and the Norfolk Navy Yard. He asked for sea duty during the Spanish War but was detailed to remain in command at Norfolk where he fitted out the revenue cutters and other vessels. The daring and address that he showed during the awful scenes of the Samoan hurricane show one side of his character and the mastery of detail and executive ability displayed in the technical work of the Navy show another. Altogether, the North Atlantic Squadron can be proud of the personality and record of its commanding officer.

We have many miniature painters but Miss Laura Hills ranks among the best in America. What is most surprising is the fact that Miss Hills is almost self taught. She has had a few months' instruction in the Art Student's League of New York and in the Cowles Art School of Boston. Miss Hills was born in the quaint old town of Newburyport, Massachusetts, and still spends much of her time there although her winters are spent in Boston. Her first work was as an illustrator and many of her early drawings appeared in Saint Nicholas. She took up the study of pastel and it was from a sale of some of her work in this line that she was able to study in New York. Her success in the field of miniature painting was immediate. During the last five years she has painted the miniatures of many prominent society people and has won unstinted praise from the critics. Two years ago she was elected a member of the society of American Artists. Few women attain to this honor and Miss Hills is the first miniature painter ever chosen into this society. She is very near sighted but this seems to have helped instead of hindered her miniature work. Her tiny bits of ivory are perfect in detail and yet the sense of broad lines and race treatment is never lost. Miss Hills' studio on Boylston street in Boston is a study in green and gold and there she greets and entertains the friends that her charming personality and her work have brought her. She is very resourceful and has a talent for organization. It was she who planned and directed the "Pageant of the Year" a very successful spectacular production given in 1892. Her work is always prominent at all exhibitions of miniature painting.

Stephen Crane is one of the younger school of realistic semi-literary journalists. He came into public notice with a rocket-like brilliancy. His first book "The Black Riders" was verse and verse of a rather startling kind. The editor of the Bookman brought young Crane into notice by means of a very flattering review. He called him an original and powerful writer of eccentric verse—"one who stimulates thought because he himself thinks." His next book The Red Badge of Courage is said to be the most striking picture of the bare revolting facts of war ever written. At the time it was penned, Crane had never seen a battle. He says that he gained his knowledge from the sense of the rage of conflict given in the football fields. During the Spanish war Mr. Crane received an enormous salary as special correspondent of a New York city daily. Mr. Crane is a college man, having received his training at Layfayette College and Syracuse University. He has recently spent much time in England. His last book is called "War is Kind."



The Princess Adolphe de Wrede is a talented and beautiful woman who is seeking success as a concert singer. She has had a rather tragic life and has just finished a struggle in the courts for the legality of her title of princess. The princess is a Hungarian by birth and in early life was the wife of a Hungarian physician—Dr. Dobrzanski. They went to live in Russia and the marriage was annulled in that country. In 1891 in Paris, the lady married the Prince de Wrede. The Prince afterwards met a wealthy South American widow and succeeded in getting a Bavarian court to declare his first marriage illegal. Upon this he married the rich widow and the Princess de Wrede has since been fighting the matter in the French courts. She came to this country and sang at the French and German embassies in Washington. She has been taken up by the ultra fashionable set at Newport where she has been singing during the last summer. Her voice is remarkable for its range and sweetness. She sings in six languages; English, French, German, Italian, Russian and Hungarian. She was a pupil of Tosti. Her Hungarian folk songs have caught the popular fancy. The Princess wears most beautiful gowns and was especially admired in a rose satin empire gown. Her diamonds are very fine and altogether it is hard to realize that a woman of title with all the appearance of great wealth is really trying to make her way on the professional stage. The Princess has however the qualities that win popular approval and her pluck and her talent will win even without the interest that her romantic story and her society following will excite.



William K. Vanderbilt is a name known all over the world as a King of Millions, but of William K. Vanderbilt the man but little is known outside the circle of his intimate friends. Comparatively few people recognize him on the streets of New York. He has the reputation of being exclusive and taciturn but those who know him well always speak of kindliness of heart as one of his prominent characteristics. "Willie K." as he is often called is a grandson of the famous commodore who founded the great Vanderbilt fortune. He was educated at an academy in Geneva, Switzerland, but returned home at the age of nineteen to a clerkship in the treasurer's office of the New York Central railroad. He was shown no favors but was told that promotion depended solely on his merit. He demonstrated enough business ability to procure his transfer into the traffic department where he became acquainted with methods and detail of this line of railroading. He has never shown in his business career a fondness for detail and aside from his first experiences as a clerk leaves all this part of the work to subordinates. He has developed a great executive faculty and an ability for bold combinations and for seeing schemes that has revolutionized the Vanderbilt system and promises to extend it across the continent. During his apprenticeship as a clerk he was made director in several of the Vanderbilt lines. His fellow clerks remember him as quiet and unobtrusive, not unfriendly but little disposed to talk. He has always been rather a silent man. With his brother Cornelius he took his little turn in Wall street. His father had warned him to keep out of speculation but experience had to teach him and the experience cost his father many millions. It was said that "Willie K." was then put on an allowance of $50,000 a month—enough to live on but not enough for speculation. W. K. Vanderbilt has had charge of the western system of the Vanderbilt lines. He selects his men carefully but expects from each president of a line definite results. The men and measures needed to obtain these results are left entirely to the head of that line. Business men who know W. K. Vanderbilt best declare that his resourceful mind, force and energy would have made a fortune had he been a poor boy. As it was, he inherited over $70,000,000 and the fortune has grown in his hands. He is a man who enjoys the pleasures of life in a natural way. He is not yet fifty years of age, is fond of society, fond of yachting, of horses and of the country. He is known as a judge and patron of art and has one of the finest private collections of paintings in America. He is familiar with current literature and finds time to read even in the social and business rush. He had a large collection of rare books destroyed when his country home at Idlewild was burned this spring. It is said that from forty to fifty begging letters reach Mr. Vanderbilt every day but his secretary disposes of them. It is not easy to gain a personal interview with him but if one is had his courtesy and attention are fully given. Mr. Vanderbilt takes frequent trips abroad on his own yachts—the last one being on the Valiant. Mr. Vanderbilt's Fifth Avenue home is a copy of the wing of a famous French chateau. He is about to commence the rebuilding of Idlewild on a much more extensive scale. His son William K. Vanderbilt Jr. has recently married the great California heiress—Virginia Fair, while his daughter Consuelo is the beautiful young Duchess of Marlborough. Mr. Vanderbilt retained a dignified silence and gained the sympathy of the public through the trying publicity of his wife's divorce and marriage to O. H. P. Belmont. He has the respect of all who are associated with him in a business way and the love and admiration of the few who come near to the man and can see him rather than his millions.



Turkey's Consul General to America would pass for an American although he could speak no English less than twenty-one months ago. Mundji Bey is about thirty years of age, short of stature and with dark hair and eyes. He has a very plain little office in State street, New York. He shows a most loyal devotion to the Sultan or Sooltan as all natives pronounce the word. The Turks train their young men for the diplomatic service. Mundji Bey studied for five years in the Turkish Government's High School of Diplomacy at Constantinople and the diploma of that institution hangs on the cedar partition that divides his 10 by 12 office. His father was a Turkish Governor General so that Mundji Bey was born in the official circle. His diploma fitted him to be appointed as a Consul General Secretary of an Embassy or Chief of some department. He has been twelve years on the Sultan's service and a Consul for six years. He was in Greece when hostilities broke out between that country and Turkey and he was forced to return to Constantinople. Mundji Bey is very "up-to-date" in his appreciation of the possibilities of the diplomatic service. Literary diplomats are very popular and the Turkish Consul General can claim a place in this intellectual aristocracy of the political circles. He is the author of a number of novels in the Turkish language among them being "The Bitterness of Life," "The Run to Death" and "The Pink Handkerchief." The last book is founded upon some romantic incidents in his own life. He has also been a constant contributor to Turkish papers. His commission from the Sultan hangs on the wall of his office. The Sultan's signature appears at the top but to the uniniated it appears to be a strange and weird hieroglyphic. Mundji Bey speaks four languages and is ready to converse of Turkish customs and manners in any of them. The moment any topic having a political bearing is introduced he shows all the diplomacy of the Orient and refuses to enter into any discussion. He is very observant and very shrewd and studies the political life of this country very closely. Altogether he is an interesting type of the modern Turk.

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Any person suffering from indigestion should make it a practice to take after each meal one of Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets, allowing it to dissolve in the mouth and thus mingle with the saliva and enter the stomach in the most natural way. These Tablets are highly recommended by Dr. Jennison because they are composed of the natural digestive acids and fruit essences which assist the stomach in digesting all wholesome food before it has time to ferment and sour.

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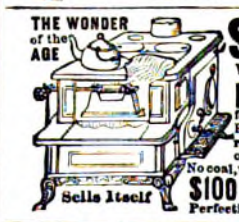
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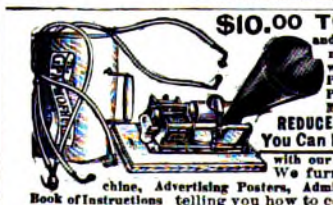
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SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO., (Inc.), Chicago, Ill.



CONDUCTED BY EVERETT G. WHEELMAN.

IF any one had believed that the day of the bicycle was over and that interest in wheeling is on the decline, attendance on the twentieth annual meeting of the League of American Wheelmen at Boston last August would have speedily convinced him to the contrary. It was estimated that over 20,000 wheelmen and women were in the thickest of it. Wheels were everywhere in evidence and the bicycle was king. The affair easily out-rivaled all previous occasions and the old, experienced wheelman who has attended these meets before met with hundreds, not to say thousands of familiar faces and exchanged the "glad hand" with as many more.

The first annual meeting of the L. A. W. was held in New York twenty years ago. The second was held in Boston at which time there was a membership of 1654 and an attendance of 750. Now the membership is considerably over 50,000. The third meeting was held in New York in '81 and the third in Chicago in '82 at which a new code of bylaws was adopted, providing for the election of a chief consul and representative based upon membership for all states in the Union. In '83 the League met in New York and paraded in Central Park when it adopted an official organ which has been continued ever since. The membership was then reported as 4250. The sixth annual meet was held in New York; seventh in Boston; eighth at St. Louis; ninth at Baltimore; 10th at Hagerstown; 11th at Niagara Falls; 12th at Detroit; 13th at Washington; 14th at Chicago; 15th at Denver; 16th at Asbury Park; 17th at Louisville; 18th at Philadelphia; 19th at Indianapolis, and the 20th was that in Boston last August.

In 1886 the League met its first opposition from the racing men and the racing board revolted and formed an association known as the American Cyclist's Union. This organization attempted to control the fall tournaments and to rule rather arbitrarily; but it only lived about a year and was followed by another association which struggled along for a couple of years or so and then died a natural death. The National Cyclist's Association has been its only successful opponent.

The history of the racing and the mile record in this country would make a thick book. Back in 1878, when H. M. Pope made a mile in 3m. 53s. his record was thought to be nothing short of marvelous; just as they used to think a trotting horse that could go at a "2.40" rate beat everything ever heard of; but the bicycle record, like the trotter's, has been steadily lowered. Several men have distinguished themselves but the honors of late years seem to be about easy between Major Taylor and McDuffee, that is taking an average of a number of years in succession. From 3m. 53s. the record has been brought down to one minute and twenty-two and two-fifths seconds. Doubtless another year it will be reduced still farther; although it does not now seem possible. The improvements in machines has of course largely to be credited with the lowering of the record. Following is the tabulated list of the record from the beginning, which I am sure my readers will be glad to see and those interested in the racing question will like to preserve:

Rider.	Date.	Time. m. s.
H. M. Pope	1878	*3 53
W. R. Pitman	July 4, 1878	†3 45
G. R. Agassiz	Oct. 19, 1878	*3 21 1-2
I. Keith-Falcomer	1878	*2 52 2-5
R. Edlin	1878	*2 46 1-2
Sanders Sellers	Sept. 9, 1881	*2 39
R. Howell	Sept. 29, 1885	*2 31 2-5
W. A Rowe	1886	*2 29 4-5
R. J. Mocredy	1890	*2 26 4-5
W. C. Jones	1890	*2 20 3-5
F. J. Osmond	July 13, 1891	*2 15
W. W. Windle	Oct. 7, 1891	*2 15
George F. Taylor	July 4, 1892	*2 14
George F. Taylor	Aug. 3, 1892	*2 11
A. A. Zimmerman	Sept. 9, 1892	†2 08 4-5
George F. Taylor	Sept. 9, 1892	†2 08 1-5
A. A. Zimmerman	Sept. 9, 1892	†2 06 4-5
H. C. Tyler	Sept. 15, 1892	*2 08 4-5
J. S. Johnson	Sept. 21, 1892	†2 04 3-5
J. S. Johnson	Sept. 22, 1892	‡1 56 4-5
W. W. Windle	Oct. 7, 1892	†2 02 3-5
W. W. Windle	Oct. 8, 1892	*2 05 3-5
W. W. Windle	Oct. 3, 1893	†1 58 1-5
W. W. Windle	Oct. 13, 1893	†1 56 4-5
J. S. Johnson	Nov. 8, 1893	†1 55 3-5
M. F. Dirnberger	Dec. 12, 1893	‡1 51
J. P. Bliss	July 13, 1894	†1 54 4-5
H. C. Tyler	Aug. 4, 1894	†1 53 4-5
H. C. Tyler	Aug. 4, 1894	*1 57 3-5
J. P. Bliss	Sept. 5, 1894	†1 52 3-5
J. S. Johnson	Sept. 28, 1894	†1 50 3-5
Otto Ziegler	Oct. 16, 1894	†1 50
H. C. Tyler	Oct. 27, 1894	†1 48 3-5
J. S. Johnson	Nov. 21, 1894	†1 47 3-5
M. F. Dirnberger	June —, 1895	†1 45
J. S. Johnson	Oct. 21, 1895	†1 44 1-5
A. Gardiner	Nov. 11, 1895	†1 42 2-5
P. J. Berlo	Dec. —, 1895	†1 40 2-5
W. W. Hamilton	March 2, 1896	†1 39 1-5
J. Platt-Betts	May 15, 1897	*1 40
E. A. McDuffee	Aug. 14, 1897	†1 38 1-5
J. Platt-Betts	Aug. 19, 1897	†1 37 3-5
J. W. Stocks	Sept. 8, 1897	†1 35 2-5
E. A. McDuffee	Oct. 28, 1897	†1 35 2-5
J. Platt-Betts	May 9, 1898	†1 35
Edward Taylor	Aug 6, 1898	†1 32 3-5
Major Taylor	Nov. 12, 1898	†1 32 3-5
Major Taylor	Nov. 15, 1898	†1 32
Major Taylor	Nov. 15, 1898	†1 31 4-5
E. A. McDuffee	July —, 1899	†1 31 2-5
J. Platt-Betts	July 7, 1899	†1 31 2-5
E. A. McDuffee	July 29, 1899	§1 28
Major Taylor	Aug. —, 1899	1 22 2-5

*Standing start. †Flying start. ‡Rejected. §Record not as yet accepted by national racing board.

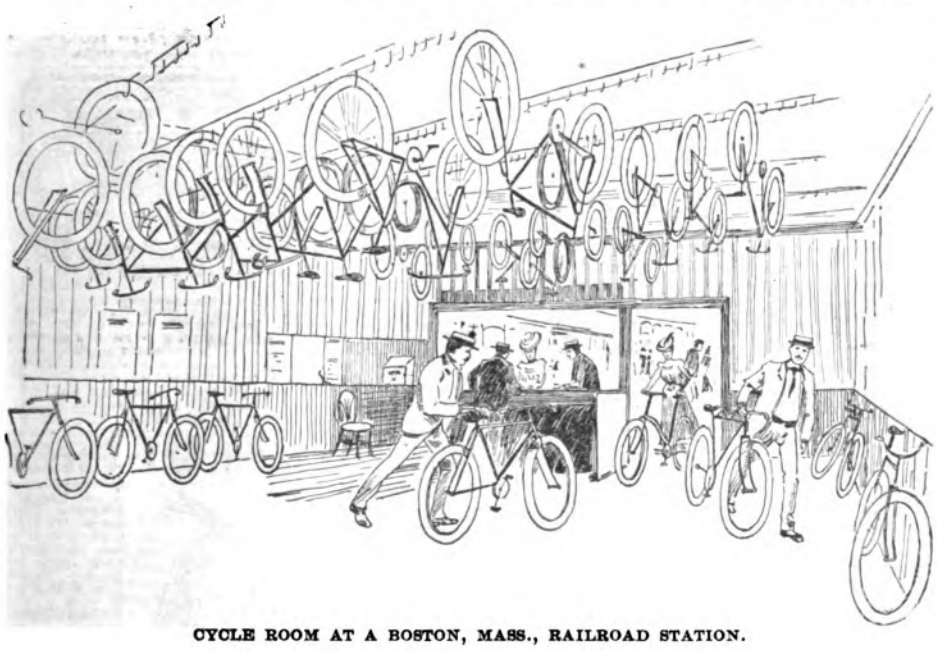
This record shows the mile paced over which more money and energy have been spent than on any known record. And its growth marks the wonderful strides that have been made toward the perfection of the wheel and the equipment of tracks and pace-making machines, and recently of motor propulsion as well. But the record does not begin to tell the story; there is a volume behind it of the training and record-breaking camps, of hundreds of men employed, of specially constructive machines, of the wonderful care taken of the principal performer and his machine, of the large sums of money invested by manufacturers for advertising purposes, of the joy at triumph and the heart-breaking disappointments which follow upon success or defeat; and of a thousand and one minor details that cannot even be hinted at here.

The L. A. W. has now become one of the most powerful organizations in the country and the time has arrived when even politicians recognize it. Next year being presidential year, the League intends to push various schemes in the legislatures for the coming winter that will act in the interests of wheelmen. They will ask the legislators of different parties to place themselves on record as for or against wheelmen just previous to the great political struggle. They will get bills introduced to Congress which will include those intended to improve the highways, to force railroads to carry wheels as baggage in states which have not already conceded this point, and to make ordinances in each state uniform. As it is usually necessary to make a hard fight before the League can secure the passage of any bills, they are prepared this season to be unusually energetic as politicians will be more than ever willing to make concessions. It is expected that this campaign will not only be carried on in the different state legislatures but will also be pushed up to Congress as there are many ways in which that body can assist wheelmen. The L. A. W. is and has been for several months, preparing a vigorous campaign with their details all systematically arranged. And it is more than probable that they will have won signal victories and gained several important concessions before another summer comes.

The importance of good roads is something that interests more than wheelmen. Property owners everywhere are affected by it perhaps more than you think. As an example of the increased valuation of property caused by the improvement of roads, it is stated on good authority that in one year property in New Jersey county advanced nearly one million dollars. In the United States there are over a million miles of highway and the saving of a few cents per mile in the cost of hauling produce to and from railway stations would, it is said, aggregate a sum sufficient for the construction of all the roads now needed east of the Mississippi river. This seems like a large statement but it is given by officials who know their business.

It is estimated that to-day there is an annual output of over 500,000 bicycles and that there are over a million wheels in common use in the United States. The bicycle manufacture has given employment to thousands of men and has added very materially to the profitable business of the country. The perfection of the bicycle has opened a large market for steel and rubber, has revolutionized the methods of drawing seamless steel tubes and wonderfully improved the manufacture of all rubber goods. Instead of importing tubing from England as was formerly the custom, this product is now supplied by American makers, thus developing our home industries. There are hundreds of patented devices for covering tires and attaching them to the fellies, which have been patented here, to say nothing of the development of manufacturing saddles, lanterns, bells and other accessories.

Surely, the bicycle has been a boon to America as a country as well as to the individual rider whose name is legion.



CYCLE ROOM AT A BOSTON, MASS., RAILROAD STATION.



WEAK LUNGS AND WASTING AWAY THE BANE OF WOMANHOOD.

THE FAMOUS SLOCUM TREATMENT CURING THOUSANDS IN EVERY STATE.

FREE TO EVERY READER OF COMFORT.

Thousands of women are wasting away day by day, week by week, month by month, through anxiety, overwork and motherhood.

Their once robust constitutions have been overtaxed, and the wasting away process has thrown them into decline.

From 150 pounds to the last bed of sickness, from which all hope has fled, is but a step or two.

How important, then, to check the consumptive germs in time?

Everyone who has weak lungs, who has a cough that does not mend, who has asthma, catarrh, or pulmonary trouble, the grip or its after effects, should without delay send for a full course of Dr. Slocum's famous FREE treatment which is sent free to all who apply.

Delay means but one ending—consumption.

Since the wonderful discoveries of Dr. Slocum have been brought to the attention of the medical world, the death rate has been greatly reduced.

Not only will the Slocum System of treatment cure all lung and pulmonary diseases, but even consumption itself, as has been proven by thousands of prominent physicians.

No matter how deep-seated the ailment, Dr. Slocum can cure it.

Mrs. Julia Glover, Easley, S. C., says:

"I contracted consumption in January, 1898. Three physicians failed to help me. Night sweats reduced me so I was but a wreck. After trying almost every means for getting well, I finally sent for a free course of treatment from Dr. Slocum, and it entirely cured me. To-day I weigh 191 pounds, and am a living example of the wonderful miracles he is performing everywhere."

The Slocum Treatment kills the deadly bacilli, imparts vigor to the body, and makes firm, healthy flesh.

In a word, it strengthens and builds up, making men, women and children stout and healthy, when all other means have failed.

Now that the raw winds of fall and winter are at hand, Dr. Slocum proposes to further demonstrate his wonderful triumph by sending to every suffering reader of COMFORT a Full Free Course of the Four Preparations comprising the treatment.

Simply send your post office and express address, stating that you read the article in COMFORT, and the Free Course will reach you without delay.

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Write Dr. T. A. Slocum, 98 Pine Street, New York, where his great laboratories and correspondence-consulting offices are located.

When in doubt as to your disease, or in need of advice, write the Doctor freely, and you will be told what to do.

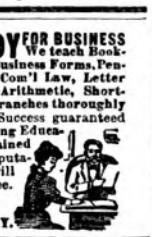
EDITOR'S NOTE.—The Slocum Treatment is medicine reduced to an exact science, and this is an honest, straightforward offer made by the world's most famous physician. All readers of COMFORT anxious regarding the health of themselves, children, relatives or friends, can have Four Free Preparations, with complete directions for use in any case, by sending full address to Dr. Slocum's Laboratory, New York City. When writing the Doctor please say you saw this article in COMFORT.

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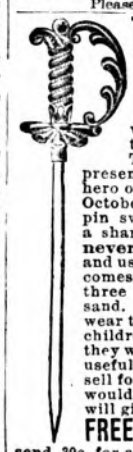
SKILLED SUIT TAILORS will make the suit in latest sack style to fit perfect, line it with fine heavy Farmer's satin and sew it with pure silk and linen thread, guaranteed far better in quality, style and looks than others best $10 suit.

SEND NO MONEY but send this adv. and we'll send Free a sample of this beautiful Cheviot and our big book of cloth samples of other suits from $6.95 up and overcoats from $5.95 up, or send us your Height, Weight, Chest, Waist and Crotch measure with $1.00 deposit and we'll express the suit to you C.O.D., subject to examination; examine it carefully, try it on, see that it fits perfect, then pay the express agent the balance ($4.95) and expressage, only after you find it exactly as represented, a perfect fit and far better than others best $10.00 suits. Send today quick for suit or free sample book.

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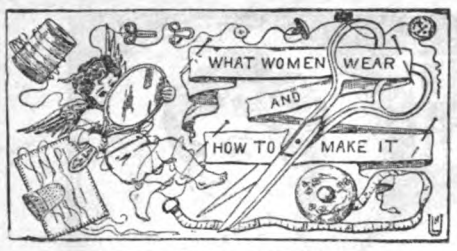
THE PIN OF THE PERIOD.

DEWEY SWORD STICK PIN.

Now that Dewey has returned every man, woman and child in the country will want to wear one of these beautiful gilt emblems. The elegant sword voted by Congress to be presented to Admiral Dewey was presented to the hero of Manila by President McKinley early in October. This beautiful gilt emblematic stick pin sword is very strongly made, the blade has a sharp point and as the sword is warranted never to tarnish, it makes the most appropriate and useful souvenir of the season. Each sword comes mounted on Red, White and Blue cards three inches square and are selling by the thousand. Men wear them for neck tie pins, women wear them for dress, scarf and shirt waist pins, children wear them for all pin purposes and they will not tarnish so are the most popular and useful "Pin of the period." These sword pins sell for 25c. each, but knowing all patriotic people would want them a large lot were ordered, so will give one free with a subscription.

FREE Send 12c. for a three months' subscription to COMFORT, and we will send one free; send 30c. for a year's subscription and we will send three all charges paid, you can sell two for 50c. and make money. One dozen pins sent, all charges paid, for only one dollar. Get them quick and make two dollars clear. Now don't wait but write at once whether you want one or one hundred.

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WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



LAVISH as was the display of splendid stuff last year, this season's outpouring seems to surpass anything ever yet attempted. Fancy fur combined with lace as a trimming, the fur appliqued on the lace or batiste, as is often the case, the pattern of more or less coarse design so as to give full sway to the fur ornamentation. One gorgeous piece of this trimming had the fur studded with jewels—turquoises being the stones chosen. Persian lamb appliqued on ecru lace, encrusted with pearls and coral makes a most effective decoration used on a gown of the new mode tint. The favored shade for dressy gowns for the coming season is biscuit in its various tones ranging from creamy tan to a pinkish dust color. Green, a shade quite brilliant and bordering on the emerald is also much in vogue and likely to find favor.

From Paris comes the cry, "down with habit backs," which means that the graceful skirt with no fullness at the back has had its day and, sorry as we are, we can but abide by it. Box pleats are given us instead. Pleats graduating from an inch in width to considerable of a flare at the foot. Sometimes one single pleat is all that is used, more often the pleat is doubled, however. Still the close sheath effect is guarded and one must look slim as a rail down to the knees where considerable flare is required. A novelty in skirts has its entire front breadth laid in tiny perpendicular tucks flying out loosely at the foot, the sides and back arranged in graduated box-pleats, each pleat stitched in pointed fashion from the belt to some distance below the hips.

For indoor wear the spencer waist is superseding the shirt waist, and is universally becoming alike to stout and slender figures. A dainty waist of this order is made up of pink and white striped taffeta, the stripes of equal width and so arranged in tucks at the yoke as to make the effect entirely white. It has a smart finish at the throat and belt of plain pink taffeta hemmed and brought into perky little bows at the front. Those neat little bits of linen hemstitched on the edges, worn over the ribbon at the neck are added to the smartest of gowns in a most taking way.

A clever girl of my acquaintance has an old-fashioned skirt of black taffeta flounced from the foot to the belt; of course this is terribly out of date, so to render it useful for dressy wear this winter she has ripped off all the flounces except those directly at the foot, and with four yards of new taffeta has fashioned an overdress, slightly pointed at the front and back, the edge set off by several rows of baby velvet ribbon, and a row of two-inch silk fringe. By the way; fringe is the accepted decoration of the season and is used on all manner of gowns to such an extent that it is likely to become common and vulgar; but until it does it will be hailed as something new and decidedly fetching.

An exquisite idea for a bodice to wear at evening functions, is made after the spencer model, composed of alternate rows of inch wide velvet ribbon and lace of half the width, the yellow tint preferred. The one I have in mind is pale blue with yellow lace insertion



A QUAINT HOUSE GOWN.

worn over a slip of creamy-white satin, the throat and belt are finished by ribbons of the blue brought into dainty knots at the front.

Gracefully hanging skirts of pale gray velvet or tan cloth are to take the place of the ubiquitous black skirt which has bored us for so many seasons.

Among the smartest hats shown is one of mouse gray felt in the sombrero shape, having a low round crown twisted about with two shades of gray velvet lined with satin of the same shade. These are knotted on the left side and through the knots are stuck two tiny golf clubs. Scarfs of silk of black or colors finished with a silk fringe on the edge are considered the correct adjunct to the up-to-date headgear. A smart hat of this style is in the popular "Rounder" shape in soft black felt, the low, indented crown encircled by the silk sash, the ends drooping low over the hair at the back, while a knot of the silk at the side holds a bunch of cocques jauntily in place.



A SMART WRAP.

Imported hats show a lavish use of strings and tulle scarfs which are vastly becoming, and yet fail to catch the fancy of our women who consider that they add to one's age however becoming they may be. Toques are more heavy and cumbersome than ever before it would seem, though they are wonderfully becoming and are usually heavy with birds or plumage of some sort.

Outre indeed are the long quills so many hats are displaying, some of them almost a half a yard in length, and give the wearer a somewhat grotesque look. Still they are stylish, and, of course, that is the only result many women aim for.

Poke bonnets are seen occasionally and are wonderfully becoming to a round, youthful face, filled in, as they are, underneath the brim, with softest linings of tulle, or chiffon of a becoming color. A dainty one in black velvet, the outside heavy with rich black plumes, has its brim faced with rose pink mirror velvet on which are set rows of shirred chiffon so arranged as to look like tiny roses; the ties are of black faced with pink.

A pretty little frock for a child's dancing party is shown here, made up in white Japanese silk, with yoke and sleeves of white lace over silk. The soft silk sash encircling the waist may be of any color desired, or the entire effect may be kept white.



A JAUNTY JACKET.

A smart wrap to be worn at afternoon or evening functions when one wishes to be especially well-dressed is given in the sketch—the snug little coat body is made up in a russet shade of velvet, very deep and warm in tone, the flaring collar is faced with the same, while the broad revers are faced with deep ecru lace over white satin—the material used in the outside of cape is a shade of biscuit-colored broadcloth, set off by rows of black chenille at the edge, and finished by a deep black silk fringe. The jaunty little jacket displays the new rolling collar now so much in evidence which may be of fur, or faced with velvet.

A smart house-gown of white wool, very soft and fine, has the quaint open fronted skirt showing the flounced petticoat of white taffeta, the upper part of the opening caught together by lacings of rose colored velvet.

MEXICAN BURDEN BEARERS.



TO the casual observer it would seem that all the burdens of Mexico are borne by the women and donkeys. Should you happen to be in the City of Mexico on Sunday, the principal market day of the poorer people, take your stand anywhere between the Plazza and San Juan market, and note the loads the women carry. Bales and a baby; boxes and a baby, bags and a baby, baskets and a baby, in fact everything that is being brought to the market, the inevitable baby being secured in the folds of the mother's *rebose*, (scarf) and riding astride her hips.

Note the family groups. Here is one that is typical of the Mexican Indian; in front comes the wife and mother, moving in the queer dogtrot that all American Indian women have, and almost hidden from view beneath a heavy load of garden truck she is bringing from the distant Chinampas. Behind her trudge two or three children, and bringing up the rear comes that lord of creation, the husband, astride the family donkey, serenely smoking his cigarette, and probably wondering why his wife moves so slowly.

But the men do their share of the burden bearing; all the material for building houses is carried up to place on their heads, backs, or shoulders, they seeming to be unable to learn that any other way is possible. When the railroads were being constructed, the Mexican laborer knew of no better way to move earth than to fill his leather apron, two corners tied securely to his waist, the others held in his hands, and to then walk to where the dirt was to be carried.

The contractors introduced the wheelbarrow, but what do you think. Four men would take a barrow, and having loaded it, would lift it to the head of one of the party, who would carry it thus to the dumping place.



THE water lily is said to be used in some parts of India for food. In Lake Cashmere there is a specie the fruit of which is rich in starch and has much the flavor of a chestnut. The nuts will keep for a long time when dried, and when ground they may be made into cakes or may be soaked and then boiled for some hours.

MUSIC GIVEN AWAY.

One hundred and twenty-five Favorite Song Jewels. A large book of music containing words and score of the latest popular songs sung in the theaters and churches everywhere. Comic, Sentimental, Pathetic and Religious. This great collection would cost from $15 to $20 in the usual sheet music form. The best collection for home and concert use ever published. We will give the book as a FREE present to any person sending us six cents in stamps for a trial three months' subscription to our sparkling, monthly paper which we are introducing into 100,000 new homes this season.

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No Money Required.



The Very Latest Style in Rings.

Has large opal center, surrounded with brilliants—hard to tell it from a $50.00 ring. **You can have one free.** Just send your name and address—we then send you 40 of our famous 14 kt. gold filled lady beauty pin—you sell them at 5c. each, sending us the $2.00 you get for them and obtain the beautiful ring as your premium. We send large list of other premiums with goods and take them back if you can't sell them—you take no risk. The ring is the best ever offered as a premium, and the pins sell quickly, so send in to-day.

LADIES' PIN CO., 721 Schiller Bldg., Chicago.

BROWN FOLDING VAPOR BATH CABINET



SEND ONE DOLLAR Cut this ad. out and send to us and we will send you this VAPOR BATH CABINET by express C.O.D., subject to examination. You can examine it at your express office and if you find it the BEST CABINET YOU EVER SAW and worth a dozen of the cheap cabinets so widely advertised, pay the express agent OUR SPECIAL PRICE **$9.75** and express charges, less the $1.00 sent with order.

OUR BROWN CABINET can not be compared with any other on the market. It is made with double walls of the best everlasting rubber coated material, rubber inside and outside, snap button fastenings, large adjustable door, folds up into very small bundle. At $9.75 we furnish **FREE** the BEST FACE STEAMING ATTACHMENT MADE, also best alcohol stove and vaporizer made. **Every home should have a Vapor Bath Cabinet,** all physicians recommend it. It opens the millions of pores, forces out the poisons which cause disease, makes you clean, vigorous and healthy, prevents disease, PROVIDES MEDICATED HOT AIR AND TURKISH BATHS AT HOME AT 2 CENTS EACH, beautifies complexion, without drugs it cures bad colds, rheumatism, la grippe, neuralgia, obesity, female ills, all blood, skin, nerve and kidney troubles.

IF YOU DON'T ORDER THIS CABINET, write for free catalogue of cabinets from $2.75 up. Address

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$5.85 17 JEWELED



adjusted, pat. regulator, stem wind and set NATIONAL SPECIAL Ladies' or Gent's size. WARRANTED 20 YEARS. Genuine American movement in 14k. Gold plate hunting case, elegantly engraved. Fit for a king. No better watch made. Must be seen to be appreciated. Special Offer for next 60 days, send your full name and address and we will send this watch C.O.D. with privilege to examine. If found satisfactory pay agent **$5.85** and express charges. A guarantee and beautiful chain and charm sent free with every watch. Write at once as this may not appear again.

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This is a fine SOLID GOLD plated initial ring, enameled in black around the initial and is fully worth $1.00. We shall give away 5,000 of these to advertise our business. Send 10 cents to pay postage and packing. *Send size.*

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Contributors must without exception be regular subscribers to Comfort, and every contribution must bear the writer's own name and post-office address in full.

Original letters only, which deal with matters of general interest, will be published. They must be as brief, plain and correct as the writers can make them, and may vary in length from one hundred to four hundred words. Only letters of exceptional merit and interest may reach six hundred and fifty words. Contributors must write on one side of the paper only.

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1st.	For the best original letter	$3.00
2nd.	" " second best original letter	2.50
3rd.	" " third " " "	2.00
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Competitors for these monthly cash prizes must *comply with all the above rules*, and in addition must bring at least one new Cousin into the COMFORT circle; that is, they must send one new subscriber with each letter, together with 50 cents for a yearly subscription.

These cash prizes will be announced monthly in this department.

No premiums will be given for subscriptions sent in under this Prize Offer.

All communications must be addressed to Aunt Minerva, care of COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

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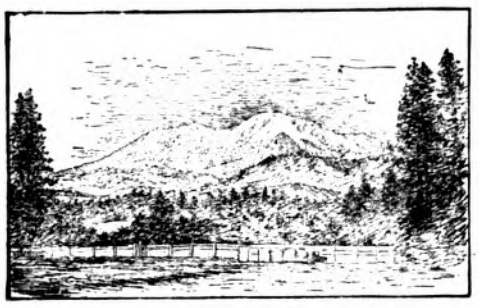
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Chester O. Sanborn,	**1.00**

DEAR NIECES AND NEPHEWS:

Again has come around our yearly festive season of Thanksgiving, when all we good Americans "Tink ob our marcies," as the old colored woman expressed it. I hope we are none of us unmindful of the blessings that are strewn all along our way, but just now, when our harvests have been gathered in, and our winter supplies stored away, we have special reason for gratitude that "our wants are all supplied."

I feel particularly grateful to my nieces and nephews this month for so generously providing me with letters for my page. Our first letter was written last August, but as my August matter is sent in in June I think you will not object to reading it now.

"We have been making our first visit to the Pacific Coast this summer, and have seen a great many new and interesting things. I should like to tell you about them all, but that would take too long, so I am going to write only about our stay in this little village in northern California, nestled



MT. SHASTA.

at the foot of Mt. Shasta. The inn at which we are staying is right in the midst of beautiful, great pines and cedars, with charming views in all directions. But most beautiful of all is the sight of the great mountain rising 14,440 feet above the sea, its summit and sides covered with snow.

"Long ages ago Shasta was an active volcano, pouring out great flows of lava, of which the present great mountain is the result. The crevices between these masses of lava rock have been filled with vast quantities of fine volcanic ash, blown from the great crater after the flow of fiery lava had subsided. On this mountain can be found all the phenomena of high Alpine regions, real glaciers flowing down into the valleys, tiny, deep blue glacial lakes, and sulphur springs which bubble up out of the rocks near the edge of the old crater.

"The water from the melting snow does not run down over the surface of the mountain, as one might expect, but sinks into the volcanic rock, appearing again at the base in immense springs. One of these is the source of the great Sacramento river, and from another is taken the 'Shasta soda' which is famous all over the west.

"Few people who come to the inn, except strong men, attempt to climb to the top of the mountain. Most people content themselves with easier and shorter excursions. A party of us went one day to visit a large lumber mill on the Sacramento, a forest murderer, I call it, it seems so wicked to cut down all these magnificent trees. Between the lumbermen and the fires, the fine forests of the Pacific Coast are rapidly disappearing, though our Government is at last awake to the situation and is taking steps to preserve them. We can only hope that laws will be made and enforced before it is too late. I was glad to meet one man with immense lumber interests, who told me he was replanting his land as fast as the timber is cut.

"Another interesting visit which we made was to a fish hatchery near by, one of seven maintained by the State. At the time of our visit, the ponds and breeding tanks were filled with trout of many varieties. Brook trout from New England, Lochleven trout from Scotland, brown trout from Germany, Dolly Varden and rainbow trout, were sporting about together in the beautiful, clear mountain water. These little ponds are very attractive to certain birds. Great blue herons and black and white king-fishers are almost always to be seen hovering about, waiting for a chance to dive down and bring up a fine speckled beauty.

"The men in charge of the hatching have orders to shoot every fish-loving bird in sight, though the State laws for the protection of birds are generally very strictly enforced, especially in behalf of the blue heron, which is said to be the best scavenger in the country. Just after we left the spot we heard the report of a shotgun, and the next morning a pair of great, stately blue wings were sent to us as a souvenir. Then we knew that one more blue heron had ceased its work, for good and ill, and that the heart of the keeper was glad."

MARY PIERSON,
Sisson, Siskiyou County, California.

Our second letter takes us to the other side of the United States, in the beautiful old State of Virginia.

"In an almost perfect climate, where the rigors of winter are softened by the warmth of the southern sun, and the heat of the summer is tempered by the cool breezes of the Chesapeake, more than four thousand of Uncle Sam's soldiers are waiting the setting of life's sun in the Home for disabled soldiers in Hampton, Virginia.

"It was in the summer of 1898 that we visited this Home in acceptance of an invitation from one of its inmates. It is indeed an ideal place for its purpose. The buildings overlook Hampton Road, where passes to and fro the traffic of the seas. The grounds are beautifully laid out, and carefully tended. The buildings are handsome, commodious, and models of convenience.

"One of the interesting features of the institution is the culinary department. In the kitchen we came upon an animated scene. Cooks in white caps and aprons were busy preparing dinner, and this is no small task. Seven barrels of potatoes,



HAMPTON SOLDIERS' HOME.

five of turnips or other vegetables, eight or ten barrels of flour, about two thousand pounds of meat, nearly a barrel of sugar, and quantities of other materials are used daily in preparing the meals for the veterans. Long rows of ranges contain the pans of meats and vegetables, and four copper boilers, each holding one hundred gallons, contain the coffee. We were told that eleven hundred and eighty-eight veterans are fed at one sitting.

"At a signal from the bugle the doors of the dining-room are thrown open, and from the front and sides enter this army of eaters. A second signal seats them, and then another army of waiters files in from the kitchen bearing the smoking and savory dishes. There are twenty or twenty-two tables with three waiters for each table.

"The veterans are not without amusement. Upon the grounds is a well-equipped theater, the donation of Mr. Horatio Ward of London, England, at which are frequent entertainments. The most of these are free. There are also billiard parlors, a shooting gallery, bowling alley, and other pastimes. There is also a free reading room.

"The hospital is one of the important adjuncts of the Home. It has a capacity of five hundred patients. The sanitation is perfect, and hygiene is a hobby with the hospital managers.

"As we were leaving the grounds there passed us a covered wagon. Marching beside it, three on either side, were six men in blue uniforms. Within the wagon was a pine box, with the Stars and Stripes thrown across it. The wagon was going to the boat landing and the box was addressed to a town in Maine. Another soldier had gone home.

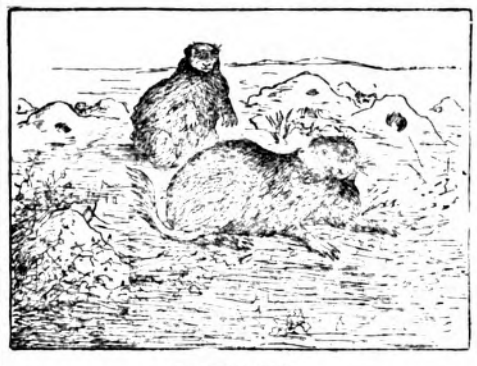
'After the battle, respite;
After their labor, rest;
A leisure hour in a shady bower,
Ere the sun sinks in the west.'"

FRED'K LEHR NEWLAND, Lucinda, Pa.

Our next letter gives some facts about that curious little animal, the prairie dog, that are new to me, and perhaps will be to some of my readers.

"Having lived in the west nearly all my life I am well acquainted with the curious little animal known as the prairie dog. He is not much of a dog, but looks very much like a monstrous rat; his yelp has more squirrel than dog in it, and he behaves like a woodchuck; so that while we call this 'ancient builder of cities' west of the Missouri a dog it is well to remember that this bushy little tail would wag as well under several other names.

"By his pertness, shyness, and innocence he makes himself a pet with travelers, ranchmen, and others who do not need for their own use those parts of the great plains where he and his tribe have long been 'squatter sovereigns.' When, however, the farmer comes along, and wants to sow and reap where the dog has made himself a home, he becomes a pest. He stubbornly refuses to yield to the newer civilization; he and his neighbors are too numerous to kill, and they are so skillful at dropping into their sand pits when an enemy comes near that their army seldom loses a man. If the farmer attempts to plough a section of the prairie where they burrow the chances are that his horses will break their legs, for the dogs have bored the ground full of holes, running straight down for eight or ten feet, and about the size of a horse's leg. If the leg comes out whole the ground is not half ploughed, for between the holes are mounds built out of the sand or soil so thrown out that it looks as if there had been a shower of large-sized chopping bowls all fallen bottom side up. Over these the team stumbles and the plough plunges in and out, and while the farmer, thus aggravated, loses his temper, the dog sits safely in his basement parlor, possibly smiling over the folly of man; for no sooner has the farmer left the field at sunset than the dog sets himself to spoiling men's earthworks and rebuilding his own, and the next morning's sun shines on the restored city of hillocks, each inhabitant sitting upright on the roof and calling a merry good-morning to his neighbors. If the farmer repeats his work so do the dogs, and while he grows poor at it they seem to make a good living. They are not disposed to 'move on' before white men. In the midst of a fine farming section in Nebraska, and near a city of



PRAIRIE DOGS.

three thousand people, there is a large prairie dog town which was settled when the 'oldest inhabitant,' pitched his tent in that section, thirty years ago. But ordinarily they manifest a respect for agriculture by locating in sandy, sterile tracts.

"The prairie dog's head is rather flat, his ears small, his eye bright, his nose hawk-billed, his jaws broad and his teeth wide and sharp; of these teeth he makes a mowing machine, clipping blades of grass for his breakfast as neatly as if it were done with scissors. His legs are short and his paws broad, making regular dirt paddles. Each member of the community has his own cellar door to the underground city, but ten feet below the surface each citizen's private apartment opens into his neighbor's; so that in a city containing ten thousand dogs if one is pursued into his hole by smoke, water or other enemy he has many avenues of escape. Their escape is inward and invariably successful, for pursuit is impossible. They have for their companions the snake and the ground owl. Even the most skilful hunters find it difficult to kill these animals. They scent danger afar off, and have a pretty correct idea of rifle range."

SIGNORA CRAWFORD.
Clifton Forge, Virginia.

Bessie C. Hall, Nominy Grove, Va., sends us a pleasant letter on Cabin John Bridge, but so many descriptions of this famous bridge have been published that I can only print a part of it. She says:

"When I was in Washington last it was with much pleasure that I visited Cabin John Bridge, through which the water supply of the city of Washington is conveyed over Cabin John Creek. This bridge is remarkable for having the longest stone arch in the world. The arch has a clear spring of two hundred and twenty feet, and is said to be twenty feet longer than the arch of the Grosvenor Bridge which spans the River Dee.

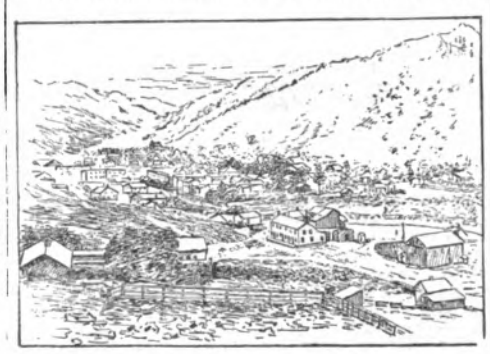
"Cabin John Bridge is built of granite with a Seneca stone coping along the roadway. In length it measures four hundred and fifty feet, in height one hundred and five feet. It cost $237.000 and is claimed to stand unsurpassed in the history of bridge building."

The following extracts are taken from a private letter to myself from a cousin in Summit County, Colorado, but they are so interesting in showing what can be done in the way of making her way in the world by a woman of energy and pluck, that I cannot forbear printing them for the benefit of my nieces and nephews, reserving, however, the name of the writer.

"I have mining property here which will be of great value when developed, yet I am now obliged to suffer for the want of the necessaries of life. For two years I have done my own assessment; I have two claims on the same lode, and the law requires one hundred dollars' worth of work for each claim. I did sixty-seven days' work, myself, last summer, which at three dollars per day amounted to two hundred dollars. The law allows three dollars per day on assessment to a woman as well as a man, but I cannot work at rock-breaking; I cannot strike it myself. I can only work on the surface, making roads, etc. I hope to be able to raise money now in a few weeks to put miners at work."

Now let us go to the Argentine Pass, the place whence "the waters run both ways."

"Argentine Pass, which is, I believe, the highest wagon road in the world, is in the Rocky Mountains about ten miles above Georgetown, Colorado. It is thirteen thousand four hundred feet above sea level, and from its summit may be seen at the same



IDAHO SPRINGS, COLORADO.

time the sources of two rivers, one on the Atlantic and the other on the Pacific slope.

"Around us are the flowery slopes and cool and crystal waters; while beyond innumerable mountains of every conceivable form and shape loom up on every side, many of them snow capped. We know not whether to say beautiful or grand; it is both, and as we gaze upon the awful sublimity of the scene our hearts go out with awe and reverence 'from nature unto nature's God.'

"The road on the Pacific slope follows the course of the Snake river, so named, I presume, on account of the serpentine path which it describes as it descends the mountain. The road is cut into the mountain side, and while on the left, as you go down, the mountain rises above you, on your right is a precipice hundreds of feet deep, at the base of which the river throws up the white spray as it dashes over its rocky bed. The road is so narrow that two teams cannot pass each other, and it winds around the mountain so abruptly that you can only see a few feet ahead.

"The first time we crossed the pass the driver told us that once, while on the road, he met a loaded team, and as his wagon was empty they unhitched his horses, led them by in single file, and then took the wagon to pieces, carried the pieces by, set up the wagon and hitched up the horses again before he could go on."

MRS. F. A. MITCHELL, Montezuma, Colorado.

Our next letter is from a boy at the Farm School on Thompson's Island, Boston Harbor. It is not often that I print the letters of children, for this is entirely a grown people's page, but this is so well written and expressed, and withal so interesting that I decided to give it place among the letters of older people.

"It may seem funny to talk about having spiders for pets, but every summer since I have been at the school there have been as many as a hundred spiders in the flower gardens, which the boys have had as their pets. There are about a hundred boys at the school, and each boy can have a garden. If he wants to have spiders for pets he gets permission to go down in the meadow to hunt for them. Then he brings them up to his garden and puts them on some plant. Soon the spider will spin a web and settle down to business and make himself at home. The boys bring the spiders up from the meadow in their hats and often carry them around in that way, wearing the hats on their heads. They never think of being afraid of the spiders.

"There are four kinds of spiders that the boys keep. One they call 'goldy.' This is the largest, and is spotted with two lines of gold running along his back. The 'silver' is a spry and good-looking fellow. If a fly gets in his web he is gone for sure. Sometimes the boys try to fool this fellow by putting a wasp or a bee in his web, but the spider seems to know that if he gets near he will be hurt, so he remains away and shakes the web until they drop out. Then there is the 'funny fellow.' They call him this because he is so lubbery, and makes his web so strong as to stop anything which might fly or hop into it. He builds himself a den by pulling two large leaves together and fastening them with his web. He will not come out until he is sure of something to eat. The 'brass back' is the smallest. The way he lives is to make a web across some plant, facing the sky, so if a mosquito should light there it would be easy to get him before he could get away. He is of a brass color, and is the smallest of all, but is the quickest and the easiest scared.

When the spiders want to lay eggs they eat their webs and drop down to the ground to search for a place in which to lay. If this letter was not so long I would tell you how the boys save the eggs, and how they make the spiders fight. Perhaps I will write that in another letter.

CHESTER O SANBORN

Our next letter describes an old Virginia church. This good old state is rich in the possession of many such antiquities.

"In northeastern Virginia, near the river Potomac, in the county of Westmoreland, so famous in colonial history, stands an antique stone edifice, 'Yeocomoco' church. This building is situated in a lovely valley shaded by magnificent oak trees. Here, in days long gone by, worshipped, among other illustrious men and women, the famous Washingtons and Lees of our beloved land, and in the spacious 'city of the dead' which surrounds the structure, sleep the remains of hundreds of the departed who have been potent factors in the upbuilding of the United States.

"As the ponderous iron gate swings open to admit the visitor within the massive stone wall encircling the grounds, he sees before him the beautiful, quiet cemetery lying between himself and the portal of the sacred edifice he has come to see. Hundreds of monuments are there, each recording the name and virtues of some long departed man or woman who once played an active part in the history of the country. Entering the building we seat ourselves in the old square pews which tower above our heads as we sit, and once ensconced in their upholstered interior one is free from all scrutinizing stares. There stands the old pulpit, far up above the congregation, who, doubtless, were obliged to crane their necks in order to behold the speaker. There by the chancel stands the font from which Washington received baptism, and there, above the pulpit, hangs the old sounding board which has many times thrown back to the congregation below the thunders of admonition and denunciation uttered by the preacher.

"But before we depart we must visit the old spring, from which so many cooling draughts have been eagerly received by thirsty pilgrims, and from an iron dipper chained to a beech-tree by its side let us partake of the clear, refreshing water, and then, stopping only to inscribe our names on the trunk of the old tree where thousands of other travelers have done the same before us, we reluctantly leave the place.

IRA G. LEWIS, Village, Va.

I have here a piece of fiction by Miss Deborah Bass, of Littleton, N. H., which is very well written, but which I cannot print simply because I do not use stories of any kind. I thank her for it however.

Another frequent correspondent of ours complains because Aunt Minerva is not willing to correct his bad punctuation, spelling, writing and grammar and then give him a prize for his letter. Now, I don't think that would be a bit fair to the other cousins who take pains with their letters and so deserve the prizes. When he sends me a letter which is worthy of a prize I have always given him one.

And now, with thanks for past favors, and hopes for more to come I am your very loving

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COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

Human Babies and Other Babies.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY DR. WILLIAM A. HAMMOND, SURGEON GENERAL U. S. ARMY, RETIRED.



A BABY is a surprisingly stupid creature, all things considered. It seems to have a mental apparatus less well developed than that of any other animal, in infancy—a fact surprising enough when one considers the enormous mental superiority which it attains later in life over all the brute creation. A monkey is ever so much smarter than a very young child, age for age, and when two weeks old it knows as much as the latter knows at six months.

Now, it may perhaps be interesting to put together a few facts, for purposes of comparison, regarding the mental development of various animals in infancy. While the baby stands at the foot of the list, it is only just to negro infants to state that they are very much brighter than white infants; they look more intelligent, their perceptions are more acute, and their minds expand more rapidly. A two-year-old colored child, ordinarily, is far ahead mentally of a white child at the same age, and this superiority continues up to about five years, after which the white youngster passes the other and quickly forges ahead.

But a monkey baby is far more clever than any human baby. I once saw, at the Aquarium in New York City, a chimpanzee mother nursing her sick infant, only a few days old, whose behavior was in all respects like that of a human youngster of six months. Its mamma, evidently suffering all the pangs of maternal anxiety in its behalf, bestowed upon it just such endearments as a woman would give to her child, and it returned her solicitude with looks and actions of intelligent affection. It is a notable fact that among animals generally, baring man, the female monkey continues her care for her offspring longest.

The law in nature seems to be that those animals which stand highest in the scale of creation develop slowest mentally. Thus the white human infant is at the foot of the list in respect to intelligence; the negro infant comes next—I purposely leave the brown and yellow races out of the discussion, because the study of this subject has not been extended to them—the monkey is next in order, and so on. A dog baby, following the law referred to, exhibits more intelligence when very young than a monkey baby. I myself have made some quite elaborate experiments with puppies, and have obtained most interesting results. If you take a pup three weeks old, which has never tasted anything but milk, and hold out to it something in your hand, it will come to it in the belief that it is food; but no human infant under six months can be taught to hold out its hand for a thing, though a colored child will do it a month sooner than a white child.

Hold out a lighted cigar to an inexperienced puppy, and he will come to it promptly and burn his nose. Under no circumstances, however, can he be persuaded to approach the cigar a second time. Having given marked evidence of disapprobation and physical suffering, he retires in disgust and sets down the unpleasantness among his never-to-be-forgotten memories. Henceforth a cigar is something for him to avoid, and the lesson is learned thoroughly and finally. But try the same trick on a baby, using, let us say, a metal object that is heated just enough to be painful to grasp. The child will accept it, drop it, and cry, time after time, requiring dozens of repetitions of the experience before it will refuse to be further victimized.

There can be no better evidence of the superiority of the dog baby to the human baby in respect to intelligence than is afforded by such an experiment as this. The puppy puts together cause and effect, draws a conclusion unfavorable to lighted cigars as affecting the canine system, and forms a decision in consequence. On the other hand, the comparatively unintelligent infant perceives merely a discomfort, sets up a howl, indulges in no reasoning whatever on the subject, and is ready to repeat the same imprudence over and over again. Only after a great many repetitions of the performance does the fact trickle through its dull brain that, inasmuch as pain invariably follows contact with the metal object, the latter is a good thing to keep away from.

Galen, a famous philosopher and one of the fathers of medicine, made an interesting test of the intelligence of a newborn goat which had not even tasted its mother's milk. He placed the little animal in the middle of a circle of small pans containing different kinds of milk. One of the receptacles held asse's milk, another mare's milk, another cow's milk, another sheep's milk, and another goat's milk. The kid smelt of them all carefully in turn, but refused to touch any of the milks until it came to the goat's which it proceeded to drink up until the pan was empty. Some people would call this an exhibition of instinct, but I would rather be disposed to regard it as an operation of judgment, which was intelligently formed upon the sense of smell.

It has long been popularly supposed that animals other than man were mere automata, being gifted by nature with a species of mechanical impulse in lieu of intelligence, in obedience to which they did whatever was required for their own preservation and so forth. Even the great philosopher Descartes endorsed this idea. However, we know a great deal more nowadays than was understood in his time about natural laws, and we have come to realize that the lower animals do actually possess minds like ours, the difference being not of kind but only of degree. They are reasoning beings, but they cannot reason so well as we do, because their brain structure is not equal to ours.

Take the dog for example. There is not a single faculty belonging to man that is not possessed by the dog. He has judgment, and on the whole he uses it wisely, so that we justly regard him as the most intelligent of beasts, with the exception of the monkey. He has an excellent memory, and his senses are more acute than ours are. He knows the difference between right and wrong, as his actions often testify. His emotional system is highly developed. His affection for his master is proverbial; he is jealous on occasions, and he indulges hatred toward persons who are unkind to him. It may even be said that he has the religious impulse, inasmuch as that is only another term for veneration, and he has the highest veneration for his master, who to him is as a God. Some one has gone so far as to suggest that from his view-point the master is only a very superior and powerful kind of a dog, whom it behooves him to follow and to obey as the wild dog in a state of nature follows and obeys the leader of the pack.

What is commonly known as instinct is inherited experience, of which various animals possess different amounts and kinds. A newly-hatched chick has already solved the extremely difficult problems of equilibrium and locomotion on two legs, and, as soon as its downy baby-feathers are dry, is able to walk about and pick up the food to which its attention is called by the maternal cluck. In point of intelligence, as well as of ability to take care of itself, a chicken twenty-four hours old is vastly superior to a year-old human infant. The latter, you see, possesses almost no instinct at all; in other words, it inherits hardly any experience. It knows how to suck, but beyond that nothing.

Instinct may be defined as a kind of intelligence that is born in the animal; it precedes knowledge and reason. Probably it will always remain more or less a mystery. Nature thinks and acts for us in an infinity of ways which we are not able to comprehend, and one of the ways in which she does it is through the gift of instinct. Certain instincts seem to be developed later in life—as, for example, the social instinct and the instinct of self-preservation. These are considered by the philosopher Voison as primary faculties, not acquired by experience, but originally bestowed with the life of the individual.

The definition of instinct as inherited experience seems justified by observation of cases where animals have developed new instincts in the course of generations. It is probable that most mammals and birds were not originally afraid of man, but that, having discovered that he is the most cruel and predatory of all living creatures, they have learned to fear him, and even their young now entertain a distrust of his intentions of them. Ducks and other water-birds in regions not often visited by human beings are apt to exhibit entire fearlessness of man. On the other hand, the domestic animals in the course of generations have come to have confidence in humankind.

One of the most familiar illustrations of the operation of instinct is afforded by the newly-hatched duck, which, though brought into the world by a hen, makes for the water directly after chipping the shell and thereupon proceeds to swim as well as if it had had a lifetime of experience in the art of natation. One point worth mentioning in this connection has to do with the mistaken popular notion to the effect that instinct in animals, being a kind of intelligence divinely implanted, cannot err. This is wholly an error, inasmuch as instincts are often at fault and sometimes grossly perverted. The instinct of mother-love for her offspring is occasionally inverted, her affection being turned to hate. Many known species of animals devour their own young on occasions.

I am sure that plants as well as animals possess instinct—that is to say, a force co-existent with their growth and implanted originally with the seed from which they sprouted. This instinct impels them to the performance of actions calculated to preserve their existence and to secure their well-being. Thus they reach their tendrils in search of support, and send their rootlets deep down into the earth in pursuit of moisture when the weather is dry. Likewise through the operation of instinct, they open their flowers in the morning and close them in the evening. Nor are these operations due to the heat or light of the sun's rays, inasmuch as they are performed when both are excluded. The sunflower turns its face toward the solar orb at all hours of the day, and it does the same thing when covered with an india-rubber tent, as I myself have ascertained by experiment.

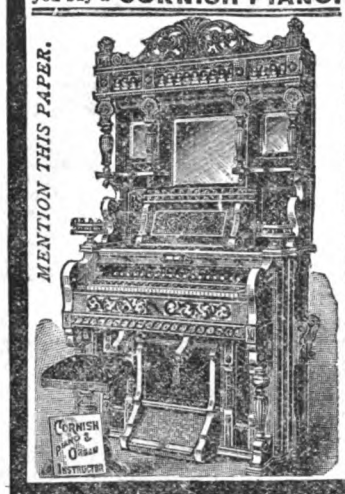
The faculty of instinct in plants stands in place of reason, which they do not possess. So far as I am able to perceive, the instinct of plants differs in no essential respect from that of animals, though its manifestations are different. Instinct is implanted in all living beings from their beginning, and is a necessary part of their constitution.

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MASASHI KOBAYASHI.

JAPAN AND HER PEOPLE.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.

In many respects Japan is a most remarkable country. For thousands of years ignorance and superstition had reigned. No foreigners were allowed to enter the country, all ports were closed to vessels of other countries for the people regarded them as devils. Shipwrecked sailors who were fortunate to get back home had marvelous tales to tell of Japan, and they with the exception of a few intrepid missionaries were the only ones who had ever seen the interior of this strange country. In 1872 Commodore Perry sailed into Mississippi Bay, with a commission from the United States to introduce Japan to open her ports to foreigners. In 1872, for the first time in 1000 years, the Mikado appeared to his subjects in person. Before this time the Shogun, acting as prime minister, had been the real head of the empire. The change was made in the form of government to a constitutional monarchy. Ports were opened to foreign vessels, and since that time the Japanese have made the most wonderful advancement, until at the present day the nation takes its place among the great powers of the civilized world, the youngest, though by no means the least important member of the family.

As a people the Japanese are remarkably intelligent, scrupulously clean, and in manners and words might be copied to advantage by most of other nations. They have been called by one writer the "French of Asia," on account of their extreme politeness. They are modest and gentle, sensitive and fond of flowers and animals. Each month of the year they celebrate the blossoming of some of the flowers. On these festal days crowds of people leave for the country to enjoy the beauties of nature. In the spring the cherry-trees, in the summer the chrysanthemums and in the winter the snow-covered trees make beautiful spectacles—keenly enjoyed by these gentle people.

The people in their religion are divided into three groups, the Shintoists, or idolates, Buddists, and Christians. Shintoism is now becoming less prevalent, while Christianity is gaining daily in strength. Buddism is still important, and it is on account of the teachings of this religion that the people have such respect for domestic animals. According to Buddism, the soul of a dead person enters the body of some animal. Therefore the good Buddists eat no meat lest perchance they carelessly swallow the soul of some ancestor.

A curious custom prevails at Mikado, the sacred place of temples where all pilgrims go. Here idols are placed in various shrines. The worshippers write their prayers on a piece of paper, chew the paper into a ball, and throw it at the idol. Should the religious spitball strike the face of the idol and stick it is a good omen—the prayer will be answered. Should it stick to the body it is a less favorable sign. Should it fall to the ground, there is no hope for the petitioner.



TORII.

The entrance to the shrines is marked with what are called "torii." These are formed by two, a posts on either side of the path, slightly converging. Across the top is placed a beam with the ends bent slightly upward. Some authorities say these are for the birds to perch upon, as birds are regarded as direct messengers to heaven. Others assert that the shape of the torii is in imitation of the Chinese character representing heaven.

The family life of the Japanese is radically different from ours. The father is the head of the family and all live under one roof. On the death of the father the authority falls to the eldest son, who must accept it or be forever disgraced. He directs the rest in everything that they do, and pays all their bills. If a younger son marries the head of the family pays all his bills and the younger son then lives at home. Should there be no son the eldest daughter must ask somebody to marry her. Her husband takes the wife's name, and becomes head of the family. Women have the pleasure of asking men to marry them. In case she is accepted the man takes her name. In case the man asks her, she takes his name. The younger sons are allowed to leave the family and become the head of a family of their own. This has to be done by petition. The eldest son is denied this privilege. It may be easily imagined that the eldest son therefore is not always in an enviable position.

In many of their customs the Japanese are radically different from us. As a nation of respect we stand—they sit. We take off our hats in the house they off their shoes. Our mourning color is black—theirs is white; we drive a horse into a stable, they back him in; they read from right to left, we from left to right; we write across the page—they write up and down. The houses in the larger towns are numbered in the order in which they are built, thus an old house may be number 2, while the next one if recently built may be number 2000.

Twenty-five years ago there were no public schools in Japan, and the young men who wished for an education were obliged to go to America. To-day there are excellent schools and colleges there with as good a system as can be found anywhere. Foreign teachers were called in, and schools for mathematics, astronomy, chemistry, geology, civil government, electrical engineering, naval construction modern languages, law, medicine and other branches were established. There is also an excellent school for the deaf and blind.

When the change came, the Japanese were so eager to adopt new methods and new customs that the emperor was obliged to restrain his subjects from abandoning all their old ways. He was successful in so doing and now while civilization has changed the people somewhat, in their home life, theaters, shops, festivals, and many habits, they remain unchanged.

Railroads equipped with the finest engines, cars and other material from the best American shops are popular in Japan as are also "ginoricksha," a sort of overgrown baby carriage drawn by manpower, and the even more primitive "Kago" a sort of sedan chair or hammock swung on a pole of bamboo, and carried by two men. These men are splendid specimens of athletes. They can travel 10 miles an hour, carrying a passenger, and keep up this place all day if necessary, with no apparent discomfort. They wear little clothing even in winter except a sort of cape of straw in rainy weather. The farmers also go almost entirely naked even in severe winter weather without seeming to feel the cold. European dress is now being largely worn in the cities, however.

Japan will soon be the equal of any country on the globe. To-day her schools are as fine as any—her people are learning mechanic arts rapidly, her army is composed of fine, well-drilled and well-officered men, while her navy, equipped with the latest modern warships is formidable indeed. No better example of her superiority on the sea could perhaps be shown than her late war with China, where the difference between modern progressiveness and ancient conservatism was so marked as to be almost pitiful.

Haciendo Del Oso (Playing the Bear.)

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



THE customs governing love-making in countries whose people are of the Spanish race would drive the average American youth to despair. The usual course of procedure in a love affair is this: A young man sees somewhere a young woman who attracts him, in other words he falls in love with her at first sight, or thinks he does, which amounts to the same thing, and if he does not already know who she is and where she lives, he hastens to find out.

He wastes no time in seeking a formal introduction, for that he well knows is unobtainable, but he begins promenading back and forth where he can be seen by the young woman from her little cage of a balcony, and this from the walking to and fro like a chained animal, is called "haciendo del oso" (playing the bear). *La Senorita* is quick to note and understand his actions, and if she is not pleased with his appearance, or for any other reason does not wish his attentions, she gives no response to his meaning glances and theatrical demonstrations of blissful pain, but turns her back upon him, practically saying, "Go away, I do not like you."

On the other hand, if she wishes to encourage him, she looks at him tenderly and gives him an occasional smile, and both being acquainted with the language of the eye and fan, they soon reach an understanding although not a word has been spoken. Thus encouraged, the young man continues day after day, sometimes, but only in rare instances, for years, to walk to and fro in sight of his sweetheart. Usually, however, after a period of promenading and serenading, and smiling and sighing, in which he is supposed to prove the sincerity of his profession, if it has been ascertained that he is a desirable match, he is invited to call.

His troubles are not ended yet, however, if viewed from the standpoint of an American courtship, for he is not permitted to sit alone with his sweetheart until a late hour in a dimly lighted parlor whispering tender nonsense into her ear. When he calls he is received in the brightly lighted *sala* (reception room) by as many members of the young lady's family as may find it convenient to be present, and in their presence and within their hearing his wooing must be conducted.

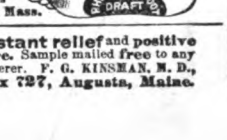
If everything goes well, an engagement is soon announced, but even then the young people are not permitted to swing on the front gate on starry evenings, discussing astronomy and the condition of the weather. They are never allowed to experience the delights of the moonlight drive alone; and the blissful privacy of the box at theatre or opera, remains equally a stranger, for should the young man rashly invite his sweetheart to accompany him to any place whatever, his invitation is understood to include her entire family.

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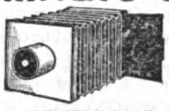


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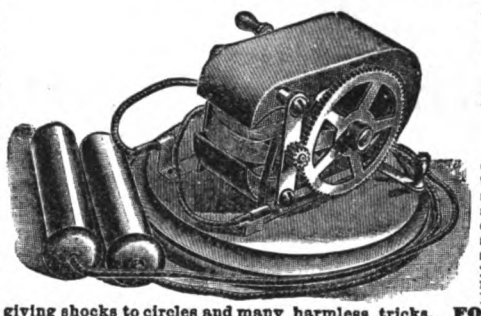
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The month of the year that has few friends and many enemies is here. It takes a very genial optimistic sort of person to pass through the changes and chances of November weather without an adverse comment. A noted satirist once said: "What becomes of conversation if we may not mention the lady who has just left the room?" He seemed to forget the topic that is always with us—the weather. We may resolve not to be inane enough to start the conversational ball rolling with any such time worn farce as the weather. Alas, habit will conquer even the most brilliant and we pass the stereotyped remarks without thinking and with thinking. November has made a desperate effort to redeem its dreary skies and depressing atmosphere by furnishing two good round legal holidays to the poor mortals whose spirit it depresses. Election day and Thanksgiving. Even November skies have a silver lining, although the political party of the gold creed might hesitate to allow it.

Japan has long been noted for the exquisite art displayed in its textile fabrics, its pottery and its carvings. The imagination of the Japanese artist seems to surpass the greatest flights of other nations. Among the common people one can find traces of the delicacy of feeling and the sentiment that prompts the best work of their artist. A British naval officer died when his ship was in the Inland Sea of Japan. He was buried in the grounds of a Japanese temple. For thirty years after the natives cared for the tomb of the stranger. On a certain day of the month they clean and sweep the grave and offer up flowers and incense. A wooden cross had been set up by the ship's officers but this fell into decay. The simple but poetic natured folk of the village had it replaced by a monument of stone. They said: "Truly it would be too sad if the grave of our solitary guest from afar, who has become a spirit in a strange land were suffered to pass out of all knowledge." All this tender, delicate fancy is found among the poorest peasants. Surely our modern poet of labor would have no need of turning from the toilers of this land and exclaiming: "What gulfs between him and the seraphim!"

There is always something a little laughable in the annexation schemes of private individuals when they apply the schemes to national affairs. Away back in the Declaration of Independence days we made provision in that historic document for the expected coming of Canada to join the rebellious thirteen. Canada didn't come and she has no more purpose today of annexing herself to the "States" than she had in that far away time. Still we have people who seriously discuss the possible annexation of Canada. They will be interested in a brother annexationist in Portugal. He is on the staff of the Portuguese monarch and has published a pamphlet giving several reasons why Spain should become a dependency of Portugal. Poor Spain is indeed fallen when such an idea could be seriously held by any person. The Portuguese aid should read the history of the nation that once conquered and held Portugal. Then he should put beside that proud record the history of this our nation; he should even compare the two nations to-day on the lines of enlightenment and civilization. If he has the least judicial turn to his mind, he will save his ink and his imagination for saner flights after he has drawn the comparison.

The progress of affairs in the far east becomes of greater interest to us since our acquisition of the Philippines. It gives us a diplomatic interest in the talked of partition of China, in the rapid advance in civilization of Japan and in the conflict of the rival interest of Russia and England. We are interested now as a nation affected in its commercial interests by the possible men on the checkerboard of Oriental diplomacy. There is much talk of an alliance between China and Japan to prevent the encroachments of Russia. Many students of affairs believe that such a union would place China again in the ranks of powerful nations. It is thought that the Japanese would abolish the official corruption that has honeycombed the government of China. If the Japs were permitted to be the ruling spirits they would reorganize the Chinese army, navy and finances. The combined navy of China and Japan would offer a formidable obstacle to the Russian advance. The Chinese and Japanese for all the difference in national traits are of the same race. They are "brothers under their skin" and a union would undoubtedly save China from becoming the easy prey of European nations.

Every "once in a while" a ripple of excitement is caused by the declaration that woman has usurped some field of labor. Then again, a wave of excitement comes from the amusement that some field of labor is to be closed to women. A late report has it that the government will gradually rid itself of its women employes. It is claimed that they cannot adapt themselves to varieties of work so well as men and cannot respond as easily to sudden call for unusual exertion. A great telegraph line has been saying these same things for years and yet to-day it pays some of its highest salaries to its women employes. On the other hand it is claimed that the men in Chicago are taking positions as "maids" no, "men of all work." This position certainly furnishes a field for versatility of effort and permits its followers "variety of work." It may be that the very point where it is claimed women fail has caused them to abandon "maid of all work" places to men. All in all this discussion of sex in work may be pleasing but is hardly profitable. In spite of theories, in spite of prejudice, in spite of figures the work will eventually fall into the hands of the most able worker. The simple law of equivalents holds on the field of labor as in most other places.

The last two years has seen a perfect furore for the dramatization of novels. A large number of books that have been successful have been rewritten as plays. Mrs. Burnett's Lady of Quality was among the earlier of these plays. The Christian and The Little Minister held the boards all last winter and The Ghetto, The Gadfly and Becky Sharp have been produced this winter as well as a version of Dicken's Tale of Two Cities. We have long been familiar with the fact that many people acquire their knowledge of history easily through the medium of historical novels. Now we are concentrating still more and are making the attempt to acquire our knowledge of books through an evening at the play. This dramatization of novels can entirely please but one class of people—those who have not read the novels. The audiences are, however, largely made up of people who have read the books and who desire to see a creation of the mind made real. Each person in reading a book has a mental picture of the people who figure in the story. Their impression is firmly fixed before they see the play. One of two things must follow. They are either pleased or displeased at the production—a negative frame of mind is impossible. If the presentation accords with their own preconceived notions they feel satisfied—if it conflicts they cannot shake off the mental attitude they acquired when reading the production and they reject the interpretation. Our ideas of Shakespeare's heroines are clear cut and distinct because they have never spoken to us except through the lines of the play. It is very doubtful indeed whether art or artifice can justify the novel-play.

Thanksgiving Day, 1899, comes to the American people as a day that can in reality be a day of thanks. The material prosperity of the country is greater than it has been for years. On all sides we see the feeling of confidence in the financial outlook. We can feel that our great country occupies a prouder place on the roll of nations than has ever been accorded to her. The individual feeling of thankfulness is apt to be a matter of temperament. If we made it more a question of arithmetic, and established a debit and credit column of our earthly advantages we might find cause for thankfulness more often than we really do. Even the most distressing showing on the debit side leaves one long balance on the credit—the very fact of being alive. It is a good world that we live in—its joys and its sorrows are balanced in a fairly even manner. Thanksgiving Day is a purely American holiday. Its origin was in Puritan New England at the time when they were in greatest opposition to the Church of England and showed that opposition by refusing to observe Christmas Day. This being one of the great festival days of the Church the Puritans refused to make merry or to turn from their ordinary pursuits on that day. Thanksgiving Day was kept at first as a day of feasting and rejoicing—later it became a religious festival. We of later years have been rather prone to hark back to the earliest method of observing the day and have let the feasting and general good time draw us away from the old-time Thanksgiving sermon. Within a few years, however, the current of custom has set back again and the attendance at church has become a part of the regular program of the day.

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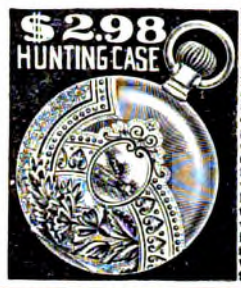
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181	Auld Lang Syne. Variations	Durkee
187	Austrian Song. Op. 69, 1	Pacher
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227	Beautiful Blue Danube Waltzes	Strauss
65	Bells of Corneville. Potpourri	Elson
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199	Boston Commandery March	Carter
109	Bridal March from Lohengrin	Wagner
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17	Impassioned Dream Waltzes	Rosas
153	Jenny Lind polka Four hands	Meller
157	Last Hope. Meditation	Gottschalk
195	Leap Year Schottische	Kohn
159	Lee's (Gen'l) "On to Cuba" galop	Durkee
141	London March—Two Step	Missud
93	Maiden's Prayer, The	Badarzewska
45	March Winds Galop	Mansfield
240	Martha Selections	Johnson
207	May Breezes. Four hands	Krug
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175	National Songs of America	Blake
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9	Our Little Agnes. Waltz	Gregoire
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79	Please Do Waltz	Durkee
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152	Flag of Our Country. Patriotic	Mathiot
156	Flag, The. Quartette	Fox
144	Flirting in the Starlight	Delano
3	Flossie. Waltz Song	Cohen
138	For a Dream's Sake	Cowen
36	For the Colors. Patriotic	Wilson
66	For You We are Praying at Home	Estabrooke
166	From our Home the Loved are Going	Percy
202	Give a Kiss to Me	Percy
178	God Bless My Kind Old Mother	Jewell
204	Golden Moon	Ivan
150	Gypsy Countess. Duet	Glover
198	Heart of My Heart	Robinson
184	I Can't Forget the Happy Past	Skelly
74	In Sweet September	Temple
188	In the Starlight. Duet	Glover
28	Juanita. Ballad	May
98	Kathleen Mavourneen	Crouch
21	Keep the Horseshoe over the Door	Skelly
196	Killarney	Balfe
132	Kiss me, but don't say goodbye	Rutledge
130	Kiss that bound my Heart to thine	Keil
164	Larboard Watch. Duet	Williams
146	Listen to the Mocking Bird	Hawthorne
48	Little Boy Blue. Solo or Duet	Estabrooke
154	Little Voices at the Door	Danks
96	Lost Chord, The	Sullivan
106	Lottie Bell	Gilbert
40	Love Ever Faithful	Bucalossi
68	Lovely Little Nellie Dwyer	Casey
25	Lurline, Do you think of me now?	Estabrooke
234	Margaretta	Balfe
112	Massa's Sleeping in de Churchyard	Foster
230	Memories of my Mother. Chorus	Allen
30	Mission of a Rose, The. Song	Cowen
52	Mother's Cry, A. (Salvation Army)	Advance
172	Mother's Welcome at the Door	Estabrooke
222	Musical Dialogue. Duet	Helmund
232	Must the Sweet Tie that binds	Estabrooke
114	My First Wife's Departed. (Blueb'rd)	Offenbach
76	My Home by the Old Mill	O'Halloran
110	My Little Lost Irene	Danks
170	My Old Kentucky Home	Foster
216	Oh, Sing Again that Gentle Strain,	Dinsmore
228	Old Folks at Home (Swanee Ribber)	Foster
60	Old Glory. National	Woods
102	Old Sexton, The	Russell
104	On the Banks of the Beautiful River	Estabrooke
90	On the Beach. Most beautiful ballad	Robinson
160	Outcast, An. Character Song	Fritz
174	Parted from our Dear Ones	Keller
100	Picture of My Mother, The	Skelly
148	Poor Girl didn't know. Comic.	Coote
56	Precious Treasure. Song and Dance	Weiler
136	Request. Sacred	Grainger
208	Rocked in the Cradle of the Deep	Knight
142	Rosemonde	Chaminade
80	See Those Living Pictures	Guth
224	Shall I Ever See Mother's Face Again?	Adriance
194	She Sleeps among the Daisies	Dinsmore
124	Softly shine the Stars of Evening	Dinsmore
210	Son's Return, The	Fritz
120	Storm at Sea. Descriptive	Hullah
10	Sweetest Song, The	Denza
32	Sweet Long Ago, The	Estabrooke
46	That Word was Hope. Waltz song	Nutting
118	There's a Rainbow in the Clouds	Danks
206	There's Sure to be a Way	Delano
158	Thinking of Home and Mother	Cohen
116	'Tis True, Dear Heart, We're Fading	Estabrooke
108	Tread softly, the Angels are calling	Turner
38	True to the Last	Adams
64	Vicar of Bray, The. Old English Song	
62	Your Mother's Love for You	Koppt
84	What are the Wild Waves Saying? Duet	Glover
58	When the Roses are Blooming Again	Skelly
86	When Winter Days Have Gone	Trayne
186	Whistling Wife, The. Comic	Randall
212	Why am I ever Watching	de Lasaide
218	Why do Summer Roses Fade	Barker

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MARJOLAINE.

BROWNIE HOVER.



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There is not a reader of COMFORT that has not known that wonderful hymn "Rock of Ages" always and yet few have heard the story of its origin. Rev. Augustus Toplady, a young clergyman in the Established English church as long ago as the year 1775, was walking through what is known as Barrington Coombe, which is a deep indenture in a forbidding and dangerous hill known as the Black Down, when the fury of one of the severest storms ever known in that locality broke upon him. At one point a crag of rock over one hundred feet high conspicuously rears its head. Near the center of this is a fissure with an overhanging roof of stone under which he found protection, and here while the appalling storm raged without he wrote upon some stray leaves of paper nearly the entire hymn which for more than a century has brought hope and comfort to the weary and afflicted and has been the light of peace to the departing soul.

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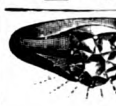
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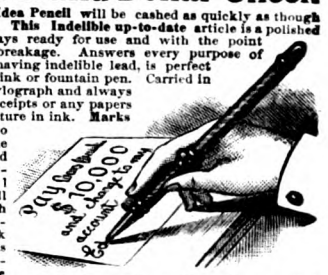
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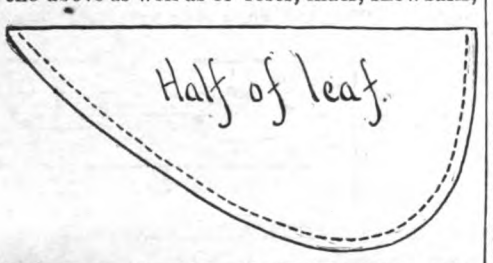


WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



THE art of flower making," writes Mrs. W. M. Knoer, from Huntland, Tenn., "is studied by very few people, simply because there is no way of learning except through schools where the art is taught, which is too expensive for those who must earn their living. But when once learned one is surprised to find how simple it is. With a pattern and instructions for any one kind of flower one can learn to make it in half an hour.

"As poppies are the simplest, I will give directions for their manufacture. Use bright red wash silk stiffened very little with gum arabic dissolved in water, and dried perfectly straight. Cut the leaves by the design given, which is full sized, of half a leaf for full open flower. Crimp around dotted edge by creasing in thumb and finger. For the center of flower roll one thread of moss green floss silk and two of black wool around the finger once, twist in a little loop a fine wire and fasten it to the wool and silk which should be twisted into a ball first. Around this gum fasten the poppy leaves five or six to each flower. The base of the flower can be made of soft bees' wax and dusted with green powder. The stems can be wound with green silk or paper, or prettier still, use rubber stems which cost but little; leaves can be cut of green silk and if you want them glossy dip the upper side very quickly in melted parafine. I would like to give more detailed directions of the above as well as of roses, lilacs, snowballs,



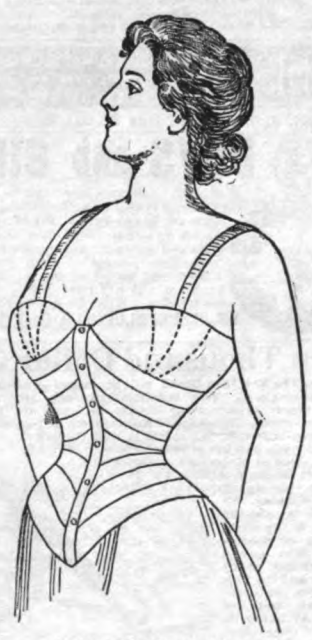
hydrangeas, pansies, chrysanthemums, sunflowers, and others, if desired by any of the Bees, and will do so if they will send me stamped envelope for that purpose."

One of the new forms of entertainment is called a Mystery Tea. This is a very good name, for anything more mysterious as to the meanings of the names of eatables on the menu would be hard to find.

Each guest, when seated at table, was handed a card upon which the list of refreshments was written, but in a very peculiar and obscure manner, and the guest was to choose from this list what she would eat. For instance, some one ordered some "very pale ale" and "sour sustenance" and got some water and pickles. Another ordered "an oriental square" and "a little side dish," and got a Japanese napkin and salted almonds. Someone asked for "a gift of the gods" and "an after-dinner delicacy" and got coffee and toothpicks.

One can easily see how a clever hostess can make up a very amusing menu, with a little thought. Of course prizes can be given to those who choose the most appropriate things, for their lunch, from the cards. The menu given at the lunch in question was as follows—the names in parenthess of course not being on the card:

(Sandwiches)	A product of the desert.
(Coffee)	A gift of the gods.
(Cake)	Crushed cereal.
(Pickles)	Sour sustenance.
(Water)	Very pale ale.
(Candy)	Solidified Saccharine.
(Stuffed dates)	Toothsome tid-bits.
(Salted almonds)	A little sidedish.
(Tea)	For Russian revels.
(Japanese napkins.)	An Oriental square.
(Toothpicks)	An after-dinner delicacy.
(Ice cream)	An Arctic delight.
(Lemonade)	A tropical fruit drink.



A BATHING CORSET.

Now for an entirely different subject. The corset here illustrated is for sea bathing, and is much more comfortable than to wear nothing of this kind and to feel the bands from the garments of the bathing suit cutting into the waist. This corset is made of ribbons and the front and back steels, and can easily be made at home; straps may go over the shoulders if desired, but this is not necessary. These corsets being made of one thickness of ribbon are quickly dried, and do not shrink as do those made of cotton. They may be made quite short, using for the front the shortest steel that is in the market. The idea is to keep the skirt band from cutting uncomfortably into the waist, as is so often the case, in order to keep it tight enough.

Many slim people wear this ribbon girdle all the time, instead of a heavier corset, and it is really very comfortable—but of course a stout person could not wear one; it is necessary to put bones in under the arms, of course, if to be worn under the ordinary gown, as the ribbon will wrinkle at that point if not stiffened.

One of the Bees from Brooklyn has suggested a "housewife" for traveling, which she described as follows:

Take a piece of blue denim 16 inches long and 7 inches wide; at the head, sew across the width a piece 3 inches deep and 7 long; then stitch down every 1 3-4 inch space, to hold spools (4 of them) under this fasten a needle book, each leaf to measure 3 by 5 inches. Underneath book, sew two strips of white tape 5 inches long, and fasten spaces to hold scissors; under this make a pocket 3 inches deep and 6 wide, with lap to fasten over with button, and embroider word "Buttons" in white on outside; bind the whole with white tape. Roll up in "Music Roll" style and fasten with button on outside and embroider your name.

A medicine case may be made same as housewife, with only pockets, into which fit the bottles; and a pocket for plaster.

CATARRH CAN BE CURED.

Catarrh is a kindred ailment of consumption, long considered incurable; and yet there is one remedy that will positively cure catarrh in any of its stages. For many years this remedy was used by the late Dr. Stevens, a widely noted authority on all diseases of the throat and lungs. Having tested its wonderful curative powers in thousands of cases, and desiring to relieve human suffering, I will send free of charge to all sufferers from Catarrh, Asthma, Consumption and nervous diseases, this recipe, in German, French or English, with full directions for preparing and using. Sent by mail by addressing, with stamp, naming this paper, W. A. Noyes, 920 Powers Block, Rochester, N. Y.

A GIFT OF EMBROIDERY SILK.

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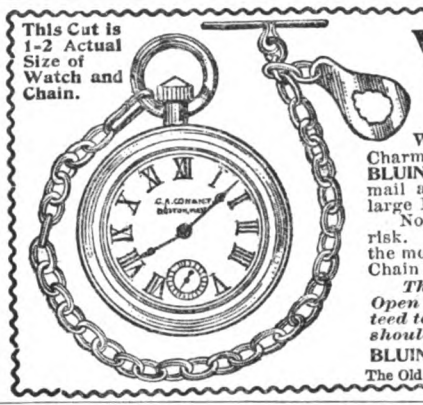
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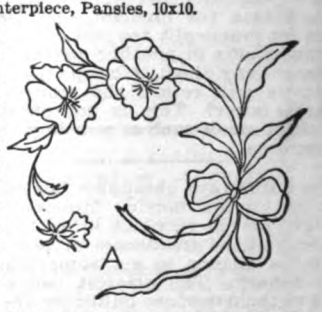
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It has been our special pleasure to select designs for this collection for our artistic friends. Illustration A shows a floral and ribbon design which can be used for almost anything the dainty worker has use for. The flowers are best executed in Kensington stitch, the ribbon may be either simple outline, outline filled in with feather, herring-bone or cat stitch, or, what is still more effective, the long and short stitch. Illustration B is a dainty little design for monograms or what-nots.

Note the sizes of the designs named below and the number of sheets of patterns in this outfit.

1 Very Handsome Centerpiece of Carnations, 17x17 inches.
1 Pretty Corner-piece of Pansies and Leaves, 6x6 inches.
1 Design of Strawberries and Leaves for Doily, 5½x6½.
1 Design Orchid and Leaves for Scarf Corner, 6½x10.
1 Clover Design for Doily.
1 Design for Baby's Bib, Rosebuds and word Baby, 4x4.
1 Design for Cheese Doily, 3½x6.
1 Design for Souvenir Case with Motto, 5½x6.
1 Design for Shoe Bag, 5x10.
1 Design for Shaving Bag with Motto, 6x6.
4 Fruit Designs for Fruit Plate Doilies, 3½x3½.
1 Design for Carving Cloth, 11½x15½.
1 Design for Tumbler Doily, 4x4.
1 Pretty Corner Design for Tea-cloth, Jewel Work, 9x9.
1 Design for Table Doily, 8x8.
1 Design for Water Bottle Doily, 6x6.
4 Designs for Butter Plate Doilies, 3½x3½.
1 Cut Work Doily Design, 5x5.
1 Very Pretty Design for Corner, Battenberg Work, 7x7.
1 Design for Border with Corner, 5x16.
1 Floral Corner Geranium, 6½x6½.
1 Design Water Lily for Doily.
1 Floral Wreath for Monogram or Handkerchief Case, 5x5.
1 Design for Tray Cloth, 7x15.
1 Design for Centerpiece, Maidenhair Ferns, 9½x9½.
1 Rosebud Doily, 7½x7½.
1 Alphabet for Towels or Table Linen, 1½ inches high.
1 Design Centerpiece, Pansies, 10x10.
1 Pansy Doily, 6½x6½.
1 Alphabet for Handkerchiefs or Fine Linen, 1 inch high.
1 Border for Flannel Work, 3½ inches wide, and 29 other designs for embroidery of every description too numerous to mention here.



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CONDUCTED BY AUNT SARAH.



THIS is the month when the housewife, having relieved her mind of preserves and pickles and the fall cleaning, begins to plan for the Thanksgiving feast. This is no small matter, for it means the early preparation of the mince meat, and later the making of numberless mince pies—as they are in no wise injured from standing, and it is well to get everything made up as far ahead as possible.

In the cold parts of our country, where the winters are long and heat, except in the living rooms, is a scarce commodity, the housewife makes up her mince pies before Thanksgiving for the whole of the winter. These pies are then set out in the back pantry where they are left to be used as needed; frost in no wise injures them, and when one or more are wanted all that has to be done is to bring them into the warm kitchen three or four hours before they are to be eaten, and allow them to get warm gradually; then about half an hour before dinner they are put in the oven to get as warm as one likes. They should be eaten as hot as is comfortable to the mouth, to give forth all their delicious flavor. People who insist upon having their mince pie cold lose a great deal of the best of the pie, as the suet is in cold hard chunks and so the filling lacks the richness that it has when hot and the suet is melted.

Those housewives who are new to the business and like to try new recipes instead of using "Mother's," may perhaps like to try the following one for mincemeat:

Chop fine four pounds, uncooked beef from the round, and two pounds of kidney suet, separately; add twice as much chopped apple as meat, one pound sugar, three cups molasses, two quarts boiled cider, three pounds seedless raisins, the same of currants, half a pound of sliced citron, the juice of three lemons, one tablespoon each of ground cinnamon and mace, one grated nutmeg, one teaspoon ground cloves and two tablespoons of salt. Mix thoroughly and set aside over night. Fill the crust without previously cooking the mince. Pies should be baked about an hour. Scald the remainder of the mince and put away in preserve jars. In adding the second quart of boiled cider, take care that the mixture is not too thin. It may not need the whole of the second quart.

Nothing can be better than the old-fashioned New England Thanksgiving dinner, where turkey was the king of the feast, and the edge of the appetite was not taken off by a soup and fish course. However, for people who prefer a course dinner, the following recipe may be acceptable in making the plans ahead.

Oysters on half shell. Lemon. Horse radish.
Clam Bouillion. Pickles. Celery.
Roast turkey. Giblet gravy. Cranberry sauce.
Baked squash. Mashed potatoes. Chicken croquettes.
Water Cress Salad. French Dressing.
Hot Mince and Apple Pie. Squash Pie.
Club House Cheese. Fruit Pudding.
Nuts and Raisins. Fruit. Black Coffee.

If clam bouillon is used and cream is a home product, add a cup of same, with additional seasonings, to the hot bouillon, just before serving. It gives a delicious flavor.

CHICKEN CROQUETTES.

Melt one-fourth cup butter, add half cup flour and let cook until frothy; add gradually, stirring constantly, one cup chicken stock and half a cup of thin cream. Season with salt, pepper and celery salt; then add one egg well beaten, and one pint chopped chicken. Let stand until very cold and then shape; roll in fine bread crumbs, cover with a beaten egg diluted with two tablespoonfuls cold water and then roll a second time in the bread crumbs. Fry in deep fat, drain on soft paper, and serve while hot.

The following Thanksgiving menu, for a family of three, may be gotten up for two dollars:

Consomme. Pickles.
Roast Chicken. Celery.
Cress Salad. Cranberry Sauce.
Baked Squash. Mashed Potato.
Pumpkin Pie. Cheese. Fruit.
Nuts. Coffee.

Where people object to eating left-overs,—and there always *are* some in so small a family—the idea of having a roast stuffed chicken instead of a turkey is a good one, and one chicken is all that is necessary where there are as many items on the menu as given above. How nice it is to finish up the repast in one day and not feel that there are left-overs that *must* be eaten the two or three days following the great feast.

We illustrate herewith some of the new Sponge Marguerites, served recently at a luncheon. The recipe says to cut a thin sheet of sponge cake into rounds, by means of a small cookie cutter; spread each round with frosting made of confectioner's sugar, a few drops of vanilla, and hot water to make of the consistency to spread. Then use almonds that have been browned in the oven, for the petals, and put a drop of the frosting in the center.

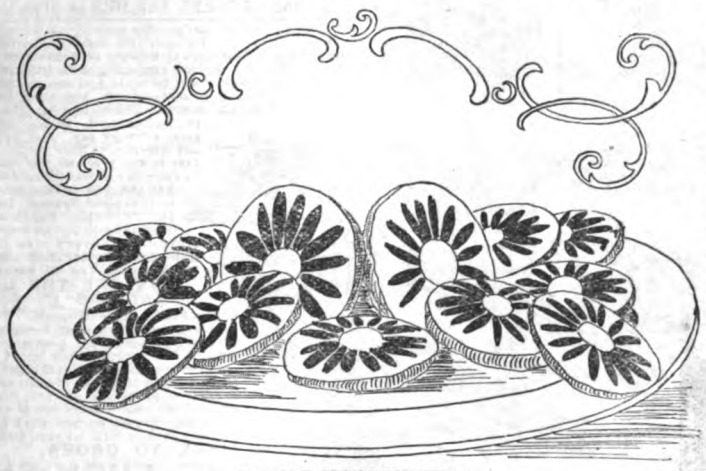
A new filling for layer cake is made as follows: Boil a cup of sugar and one-third cup of water without stirring, until the syrup threads. Pour in a fine stream onto the white of an egg which has been beaten until foamy but not stiff; add one-fourth pound figs finely chopped and cooked in one-fourth cup water; then add half a cup of walnut meats finely chopped. Beat until cold enough to spread.

RAISIN FILLING.

Cook together slowly one cup seeded and chopped raisins, one cup water and two-thirds cup sugar. When raisins are tender, add one egg beaten slightly, and stir and cook over hot water until slightly thickened. Flavor with lemon, and let the mixture cool before using.

FIG FILLING.

Half a pound of finely chopped figs, one cup water and one-half cup sugar; cook until smooth, stirring constantly. A tablespoonful of lemon juice or half a cup of chopped nuts may be added, if desired.



SPONGE MARGUERITES.

A SIMPLE EXPLANATION.



SCIENTISTS are often unable to find the cause of natural phenomena, but not so with the simple savage, whose fertile imagination supplies him with an explanation of everything. Take, for instance, the plumage of birds; science has never been able to explain why the peacock and parrot should invariably be clothed in gaudy raiment, and the raven as invariably in somber black. But the Zuni Indians know, and no scientists could do worse than to accept the explanation that lies in the following Zuni legend:

"In the beginning, the fowls of the air were naked like men, having only a few scattered hairs on their bodies for covering; and being ashamed of their nakedness, for a long time they remained hidden. But by and by they assembled in a great medicine council, and prayed Cinauhuav (the wolf-god) to give them clothing. In response it was revealed to them that their coverings were ready, but were a long way off, and that they must either go or send for them.

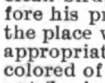
"Accordingly another council was held, this time to select some bird to go after the plumage, but each found an excuse for not going. Finally At-chi-ala-topa, the turkey-buzzard, volunteered to go; and it being a long journey to the place, he, who before that had been a clean bird, was compelled to eat carrion, therefore his present nature. When he arrived at the place where the coverings were, he at once appropriated to himself the most beautifully colored of them all; but he found that he could not fly in it, so he continued trying on suit after suit until he arrived at the least beautiful one, which fitted him perfectly, and in which he rides so gracefully through the air. He then returned to his companions bearing the feathery garments, and each bird chose the suit that fitted him best."

In confirmation of this story, the Zunis point to the hair-like feathers found on the bodies of all birds.

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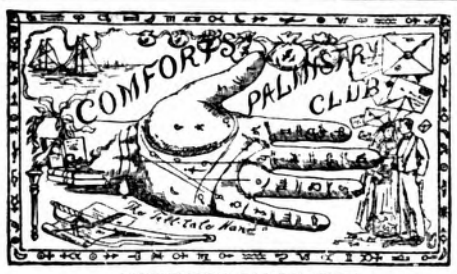
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Medium or A wick, 5-8 inch wide—the size for house lamps—by mail, sample 5 cents; per dozen, 25 cents; per gross, $2.50. Large or B wicks, for table, bracket lamps, 1 inch wide, wicks, for hand lamps, sample, 5 per dozen, 25 cents; per gross, $2.50. Extra wide, sample, 5 cents; inches wide, for incubators, hall, store, or sample, 5 cents; store lamps, sample, 8 cents; $3.50. Dwick, 1 1-2 $3.50 per gross. Argand wicks for hall, bracket, or 33 cents dozen; parlor lamps, same, 33 cents; per gross, $3.50. On all orders for $10.00 accompanied by the cash, 15 per cent. off. Send cor sample dozen, giving width desired, and see how they go. We can supply you with any style ARC-LIGHT WICK in any quantities, from a single wick to a thousand dozen.

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SPECIAL FREE COUPON OFFER. To all who send six cents and this offer for three months' trial subscription to this paper we will send 2 samples of A B or E wick. Address **COMFORT, Box 959, Augusta, Maine.**



CONDUCTED BY DIGITUS.

CONDITIONS.

To have one's hands read in this department, by Digitus, one of the finest living palmists, it is necessary to observe the following conditions:

Impressions of both hands must be sent, fully postpaid and having the name, address and nom de plume of the sender enclosed in the package also.

The package must in every instance be accompanied by the names and addresses of eight new subscribers at twenty-five cents each, the whole amount, $2.00 being remitted, with the package, addressed to COMFORT PALMISTRY CLUB, Augusta, Maine.

No notice will be taken of impressions and requests for readings unle s the sender has fully complied with the above conditions.

To take impressions, first hold two large pieces of blank paper over a candle or similar flame, until they are heavily coated with the smoke. Then lay these pieces down, smoke side uppermost on a pad of cotton. Now place the two hands, palms downward, one on each sheet of paper, pressing firmly and steadily down, but taking care not to move the hand. Keep them so for one minute and lift carefully, so as not to disturb the impression. Have ready some fixatif, which can be bought at a drug store or an art store or made with gum arabic and water in an atomizer. Spray this over the impressions before they are moved and allow them to dry. Then they are ready to send.

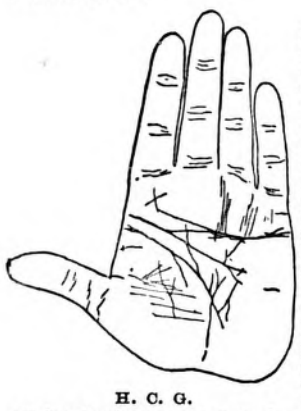
Smoked paper impressions are the best. But if it is desired to send a plaster cast, take plaster of Paris and dissolve in water to the consistency of thick cream. Pour this into a large shallow dish and when it is hardening place the hand, well-greased, palm downward, in the plaster, pressing downward. Several minutes will be required to get this impression and great care must be taken in removing the hand, not to break the plaster. Casts are exceedingly difficult to send without breaking and should be very carefully packed in a box with the name of the sender written on it. Putty is sometimes successfully used in place of plaster. A good photograph if sufficiently well taken to bring out all the lines, can also be read, although in all cases the smoked paper is the best, if properly treated with fixatif.

Bear in Mind that all the above conditions must be observed.

Also, that letters not complying with them will go into the waste-basket. Readings cannot appear for several months after impresions are sent.

THERE are several hands to be read this month and I will not attempt to answer questions in this number; but I will say to "Anxiety" that her hands were read in the September COMFORT under the first nom de plume she sent, "Despondent."

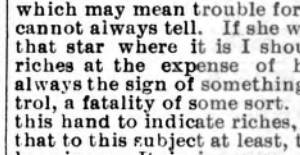
The same sister wants to have a star defined exactly so that any reader may know it. The star may be a perfect one, formed by the crossing of three lines so as to make six points or ends, or it may be formed of three or four irregular lines crossing each other at the same place; or it may be formed by the junction of two lines with one of the main lines. There is no way of picturing it that would be an infallible guide.



H. C. G.

"H. C. G." are the initials of a brother who has sent his impressions several times, but who gives no nom de plume. He writes on paper bearing the heading of a coal company in one of the middle southern states. Does he recognize it? He has the hand of a successful business man. He has excellent judgment and the courage of his convictions. When he thinks a thing is right or best to do, he goes ahead and does it, regardless of the opinions of other people and generally turns out to be right. He is an ambitious man and will gain the objects of his ambition and will occupy a high position in his community or state and be greatly respected. He will be successful in a business way and will have plenty of money in his old age. He will be very much wrapped up in his business or in his public work during the middle of his career, say from thirty to fifty. He has only one serious love affair in life, although he will be a favorite and much admired by women. The one affair to which I refer comes at an early age, say between eighteen and twenty-five, but it will be broken off in some way, much to his sorrow. I think the girl will gradually grow away from him but he will never care so much for any other. He has a clear, cool head and logical mind. He will succeed in business, either as a lawyer, or as a politician, and as I said before will amass wealth before he is fifty, with fame thrown in. He will be honest and upright even in small matters and will make a true friend to those who are fortunate enough to gain his friendship. On the whole, a fortunate and promising hand.

"Aunt Jane" has a pretty good hand also, though of a very different type. She has good judgment with a taste for the artistic and romantic. She loves novels and poetry, especially of a sentimental kind. With all this she has good sense and an upright mind which makes her highly respected and will be in her favor as long as she lives. She, too, has her own convictions and is not afraid to stand up for them. She will go ahead and carry out any work which she thinks is good and proper, and not sit and dream impossible things or plan great things for other people to perform. She is courageous and much beloved by her own family and her friends. In matters of the heart she will be steadfast and true to the man she marries. She can always be trusted and she has some pet ambition which she does not always feel willing to talk about to every one. She will live to about sixty but will not have very good health after she is fifty. She will marry not far from twenty-five and will have only one child that will live to grow up, and he will cause her a great deal of anxiety. She is by nature very nervous, but has learned to control herself in that respect. She will travel somewhat during the latter part of her life, and will have lucky journeys. Her fate-line is better than the average, indicating good luck and the gradual increase of wealth. In her last years she will be more than comfortably well off. She will always be much liked by every one, and if she has any foes will be triumphant over them. She has a talent for teaching and, if she will carefully develop it, a talent for writing; although I fear she will have to develop her bump of patience first. This too, is a fortunate hand; far better than the average.



AUNT JANE.

"Helig L." has a good hand indicating long life and good degree of success in what he undertakes, but he will have to work for it. In his early life he has not had the freedom that he should have had. He has either had to work for his living too early, or his parents have kept him in too close. He will not get over the influence of that until he is twenty-five or thereabouts, but after that he will go on and be quite lucky in everything. He will live to be eighty or perhaps ninety and there is very little trouble in his palm after he is twenty-five. He is a good friend and a steady reliable fellow who will make a good citizen of his town and state. I do not think he will hold high offices or has any taste for that sort of thing. He has a great deal of tact and knows how to get along with people very well. He too, has some affair of the heart when quite young but he gets over it and will marry happily and rather young. He meets with some discouragement at the beginning of his career in life or when he starts out for himself, but he will come out from that and go right on through life without many obstacles in future. He will make a successful farmer or a good doctor. He is fond of reading, takes an interest in all public affairs and is a good patriot, and is steady and affectionate, a good husband and father. I would like to see more such citizens of our country as he.



HELIG L.

"Miss May" has a strictly feminine hand, indicating gentleness and refinement but great nervousness. She is fond of music and pictures and is a good singer or player, or at least might be if she chose. She is fond of admiration, especially from the opposite sex and has a great deal of it. She will be engaged twice but will meet with opposition from her family in these matters which will cause her some disappointment and a great deal of anxiety for a time, but she will finally marry happily and settle down to enjoy life. She should endeavor not to show her feelings too plainly when she likes a young man, as that is her tendency and there is danger that the young man will become tired of her. Her health was delicate in childhood and is not very strong up to her twenty-fifth year, but after that it will improve and she will live to be very, very old. There is a tremendous star near the centre of her hand, which may mean trouble for her, although one cannot always tell. If she were a man and had that star where it is I should say it meant riches at the expense of health. A star is always the sign of something beyond our control, a fatality of some sort. There is much in this hand to indicate riches, but I should say that to this subject at least, they will not bring happiness. It is in some respects a curious hand and if she is ever in the vicinity of Cheiro I should advise her having him read her palms, as there are some characteristics that can be detected in the warm, living hand that do not appear in a plaster cast or in the smoked paper impression.



MISS MAY.

I am in receipt of more letters asking for the terms of readings, how to take and send impressions etc. These things may all be found in the heading to these articles. Mind you observe all the conditions.

Digitus

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We will send you a pair of these etruscan moulded, beautiful gold plated **Cameo style Beauty Pins** free if you send 15c for a six months' subscription to "COMFORT." Buttons are fast being replaced by these delicate style Beauty Pins and the **convex embossed effect** produced by a patented machine process which acts on the reverse side of the transparent stone, gives a magnificent effect when the pin is worn. The pins are all the rage and can be worn in place of cuff, collar, waist or dress buttons, or they are beautiful for the hair or hat as well as for general utility. They make fine bosom pins and you won't miss it if you send 25c. for a year's subscription and get two pair—four pins—free.

Address COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.



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$150.00 PER MONTH AND EXPENSES MADE BY ALL OUR ACTIVE MEN. WE PAY MANY FAR MORE.



WE WANT MEN IN EVERY COUNTY

in the United States. If your reference is satisfactory we will start you at once. No experience necessary. No capital required. We furnish a full line of samples, stationery, etc. A tailor's-for-the-trade complete outfit ready for business. NO COMMISSION PLAN. You regulate your profits to suit yourself. No house-to-house canvass. This is not one of the many catchy advertisements for agents, but one of the very few advertisements offering a rare opportunity to secure strictly high-grade employment at **BIG WAGES.**

We are the LARGEST TAILORS in America. We make to measure over 300,000 suits annually. We occupy entire one of the largest business blocks in Chicago. We refer you to the Corn Exchange National Bank in Chicago, any Express or Railroad Co. in Chicago, any resident of Chicago. Before engaging with us, write to any friend in Chicago and ask them to come and see us, then write you if it is a rare opportunity to secure steady, high-class, big-paying employment. BETTER STILL—come to Chicago yourself and see us before engaging and satisfy yourself regarding every word we say. You can get steady work and big pay. Work in your own county 300 days in the year and you can't make less than $5 every day above all expenses. WE WANT TO ENGAGE YOU to take orders for our Made-to-Order-and-Measure Custom Tailoring, (Men's Suits, Pants and Overcoats). We put you in the way to take orders from almost every man in your county; a business better than a store with a $20,000.00 stock. You will have no competition.

WE ARE THE LARGEST TAILORS IN AMERICA

Of Fine Custom-Made Garments. We buy our cloth direct from the largest European and American Mills. We control the product of several Woolen Mills. We operate the most extensive and economic custom tailoring plant in existence, thus reducing the price of Suits and Overcoats made to order to $5.00 and upward; Pants from $1.50 to $5.00. We show a large line of suits at from $5.00 to $8.00. Prices so low that nearly everyone in your county will be glad to have their suits

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WE FURNISH YOU

a large, handsome leather-bound book, containing large cloth samples of our entire line of Suitings, Pantaloonings, etc., a book which COSTS US SEVERAL DOLLARS; also Fine Colored Fashion Plates, Instruction book, Tape Measure, Business Cards, Stationery, Advertising Matter, and your name and address on rubber stamp with pad complete. We also furnish you a Salesman's Net Confidential Price List. The prices are left blank under each description so you can fill in your own selling prices, arranging your profit to suit yourself. As soon as you receive your sample book and general outfit and have read our book of instructions carefully, which teaches you how to take orders, and marked in your selling price, you are ready for business and can begin taking orders from every one. At your low prices, business men, farmers and in fact every one will order their suits made. You can take several orders every day at $1.00 to $5.00 profit on every order. EVERY ONE WILL BE ASTONISHED AT YOUR LOW PRICES.

YOU REQUIRE NO MONEY. Just take the orders and send them to us, and we will make the garments within 5 days and send direct to your customers by express C. O. D., subject to examination and approval, at your selling price, and collect your full selling price, and every week we will send you a check for all your profit. You need collect no money, deliver no goods, simply go on taking orders, adding a liberal profit and we deliver the goods, collect all the money and every week promptly send you in one round check for your full profit for the week. NEARLY ALL OUR GOOD MEN GET A CHECK from us of AT LEAST $40.00 every week in the year.

THE OUTFIT IS FREE. We make no charge for the book and complete outfit, but as each outfit costs US SEVERAL DOLLARS, to protect ourselves against many who would impose on us by sending for the outfit with no intention of working, but merely out of idle curiosity, as a GUARANTEE OF GOOD FAITH on the part of EVERY APPLICANT, we require you to fill out the blank lines below, giving the names of two parties as reference, and further agreeing to pay, merely as a temporary deposit, ONE DOLLAR and express charges for the outfit, when received, if found as represented and really a sure way of making big wages. The $1.00 you agree to pay when outfit is received does not begin to pay the cost to us, but insures us you mean business. WE WILL REFUND YOUR $1.00 as soon as your orders have amounted to $25.00, Which amount you can take the first day you work.

Fill out the following lines carefully, sign your name, cut out and send to us, and the outfit will be sent you at once.

AMERICAN WOOLEN MILLS CO., West Side Enterprise Bldg., CHICAGO, ILL.

GENTLEMEN:—Please send me by express, C. O. D., subject to examination, your Sample Book and Complete Salesman's Outfit, as described above. I agree to examine it at the express office and if found exactly as represented and I feel I can make good big wages taking orders for you, I agree to pay the express agent, as a guarantee of good faith, and to show I mean business (merely as a temporary deposit), One Dollar and express charges, with the understanding the One Dollar is to be refunded to me as soon as my sales have amounted to $25.00. If not found as represented and I am not perfectly satisfied I shall not take the outfit or pay one cent.

Sign your name on above line.

Name of Postoffice, County and State on above line.

Your age .....

Married or single .....

Address your letters plainly to

On above two lines give as reference, names of two men over 21 years of age who have known you one year or longer.

On above line give name of your nearest express office.

AMERICAN WOOLEN MILLS CO., West Side Enterprise Bldg., CHICAGO, ILL.

RIO, WIS., June 20th, 1898.

GENTLEMEN:—In reply to your letter requesting the use of my photograph for advertising purposes, and asking how I am pleased with the work, would say I do not object to you using my photograph as your prices are very low and garments so exact to my measurements that I gladly recommend you. I would add that I have never made less than $80.00 per month since I received your first outfit, and in the best months have made as high as $350.00 per month. Very truly, E. J. DOYLE.

Should you write Mr. Doyle, be sure to enclose a 2c stamp for reply.
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Here's One on the Pneumatic Plan for Just One Dollar, Made Entirely of Wood and Metal.

Stained and polished to represent mahogany, has all improvements, exposed metal parts, heavily plated. Same size as regular Carbine. Is designed for shot, which can be bought for a trifling expense anywhere. Works on the pneumatic spring scientific plan. Loads at Breech. Shoots with accuracy. Has the force and precision of any magazine gun. Can be used with perfect safety by men, women and children. No horrible accidents by careless handling. Kills birds and small game. Just right for hunting where silence is wanted. Brass tubes, air chamber, and heavy metal springs. Endorsed by officers of the Army and Navy as the best mechanical rifle ever produced. Used on practice ships in place of regular magazine rifles. Boys are delighted with it and prefer it to a larger gun. Can be kept in your room to protect the household if you dislike to have firearms around. Absolutely no danger. Perfect workmanship guaranteed in each gun. We will send this paper a year and this rifle complete and sent carefully packed for $1.00.

SPECIAL OFFER. Send us a club of five yearly subscribers to this paper at 25 cents each, and we will send you one of these rifles free as a premium, all charges paid. Address COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.



The Earl and Countess Aberdeen.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.

The visit of the Earl of Aberdeen to Princeton, N. J., to receive the degree of LLD. from the University there, and the notable trend of the address there on that occasion, making for peace between America and Great Britain, attracted universal attention at the time to the then Governor General of Canada. Lord Aberdeen was accompanied by his wife, who is so fully his equal in executive ability and in her active participation in public and philanthropic work that she shares general interest with him.

Both on their way to Princeton and returning, the Aberdeens stopped in Boston. In connection with work on one of the Boston daily papers I had occasion to see them several times, and I think that certain of their characteristics which greatly interested me, and which may properly enough be written of, may be of interest to others.

With all our closely hugged American independence it has often been said that we dearly love a lord. Be that true or not, a newspaper man's experience inclines me to have no doubt but what we dearly love to know how a lord looks and acts, and what he says.

A reporter's pencil is apt to be at the same time a measuring rule. When, after many interviews with little people who would make themselves big, he meets a man and woman like Canada's Ex-Governor General and his wife who are as eminent for ability and character as they are high in rank, and who are at the same time apparently as forgetful of their own position as they are free from any attempt to impose observance of it upon others, he marks that in his note book as "a bright day."

Partly because it was an unwritten law that on account of his official position the Governor General of Canada is not expected to be interviewed, and partly because I had received an intimation that Lady Aberdeen had a special interest in this visit to Boston, I sent my card, on going to their hotel, to her Ladyship. Word was brought back to me at once by the bell boy that Lady Aberdeen was engaged, and would I kindly wait.

The freshly written page of the hotel register bore the names of

The Earl of Aberdeen
Countess Aberdeen
Lady Marjorie Gordon.

I had been waiting not more than ten minutes—pseudo nobility oftener kept me waiting an hour—when I saw an exceeding beautiful young girl walk down the stairs and up to the clerk's desk. In reply to her question the clerk nodded over into the corner where I was sitting, and she crossed to me.

Was this Mr.——? Lady Aberdeen was now disengaged, and would I kindly come up to the rooms? The messenger proved to be Lady Marjorie Gordon herself, whose mother, Lady Aberdeen, had sent her down to do the errand, in lieu of ringing for a bell boy.

Lady Marjorie, by the way, an interesting commentary on English and American methods of bringing up girls—was at seventeen still in dresses which if they were not short were decidedly not long, and at the various functions at which I saw her afterwards was very distinctly seen and not heard. One member of the party was an Englishwoman who, in the idiom of their land, "reads with Lady Marjorie."

Lady Aberdeen met me, as she did two other newspapermen who came in soon after, with a cordial English grasp of the hand, and when we rose to leave the room bade us god speed in the same hearty fashion.

The special errand of the Aberdeens in Boston was to interest the Canadian-born residents in that city in the scheme just then being inaugurated in Canada to establish a Victorian Order of Nurses in commemoration of the Queen's Jubilee. Lady Aberdeen, on the Sunday of their return, spoke in Tremont Temple to an audience of three thousand people, to interest them in the plan. Her Ladyship was evidently not a practiced public speaker, but she had a simple earnestness which made the words spoken by her sweet, strong voice full of force.

I think no better keynote can be had to Lady Aberdeen's character than her closing words: "I have appealed to you, dear friends," she said, "in the name of the country of your birth and the sacred ties of your childhood, and in the name of our Queen, but I venture to close with a higher appeal still. What has been the lesson of the Queen's life? What has given her her influence? Is it not that we remember when she was told that she had become Queen her first act was to ask for the help of God? Hence I venture to close my appeal with the words of our Master, himself,—'Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.'"

Equally characteristic was what Lord Aberdeen said later. For him, knowing that in his official position at that time his words must have a double importance, it was no light matter to say as Lord Aberdeen did:—"Not only will this help be cherished by my wife and myself, but it will remain an emblem of that force which exists on both sides the Atlantic as a fixed determination that we shall show not only in doctrine but in action that we shall be the followers of the Prince of Peace."

One instance of Lord Aberdeen's kindly thoughtfulness come to my attention later. Among the hardest-working people of Boston is a young woman who is a native of Halifax, and who in years back, before reverses had scattered its members to hard work, had been one of a family which had been prominent in that city, and in the province. The Aberdeens had come recently from Halifax, the Governor General having been making an official tour of the maritime provinces. Late in the afternoon of the Aberdeens' last day in Boston a quiet reception was given them at the home of one of the most distinguished women in Boston, in order that a few people might meet them. The young woman of whom I have spoken and I had started to come away. We had said good-by to Lady Aberdeen some little time before, and then, as both the Earl and Countess were in the center of the drawing-room surrounded by those who were anxious to speak with them, we told each other we would slip out quietly, without further ceremony.

In the hall an acquaintance detained my companion a moment, and as we stood there, she with her wrap and I hat in hand, the Earl happened to turn and see us. At once he withdrew from the circle of people around him, and coming out extended his hand as he said: "Were you really going without saying good-by?" Then the Earl of Aberdeen and Governor General of Canada, squeezed into a corner of the hall, spent the next ten minutes in an interested talk about Halifax and the Haligonians with this young woman, whose proudest boast it is that she earns her daily bread by hard work.

Another Reader Has Been Making Money.

In a recent issue of your valuable paper I read of the success of one of your readers making so much money selling Sugarine that I wish to give my experience. I have not made less than $10 a day for the last few weeks. I have tried this Sugarine in all kinds of cooking and I have found it splendid. I sent for samples and directions to start with and I found the work so pleasant and easy that I am going to sell it right along. This Sugarine is 450 times as sweet as sugar. It only requires one drop to sweeten a cup of tea, coffee, milk, &c. Used for pastry, canned fruit and anything that sugar is used for. I make my own Sugarine. Write to W. H. Baird & Co., Dept. 500, Station A, Pittsburg, and they will send you full particulars free, or they will send you a sample by mail with complete directions for making it for 18 two cent stamps. You should sell from one to six boxes at most every place you call. With the proceeds of my work I am building a nice home. Try it and report your success in next issue. A READER.



Brass Band

Instruments. Drums, Uniforms & Supplies. Write for catalog, 445 illustrations. FREE; it gives Music and Instructions for New Bands.
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PARALYSIS Locomotor Ataxia conquered at last. Doctors puzzled, Professors amazed at the return to health of patients thought to be incurable, by DR. CHASE'S BLOOD AND NERVE FOOD. Write me about your case. Will send proof of cures with advice free. Dr. Chase, 224 N. 10th St., Phila., Pa.



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LADIES' or GENT'S Stem Wind Gold Filled

To introduce the only house retailing at wholesale prices with every Watch order for 60 days we will send one card 6 beautiful bead Dress Pins the very latest, and 1 fine Cluster Stick Pin. Watches are genuine American full nickle Jeweled movements in 14k. Gold filled double hunting cases, warranted to wear 20 yrs. Will send by express C.O.D. Don't pay a cent until you see it. If O.K. pay agt. $5.75 and charges. Catalog Free.
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It Won't Turn Silver to Gold, nor Turn Gold to Silver; but It Will Coin Dollars for You. Agents Wanted.

The Electro Polishing Cloth, a wonderful prepared cloth that gives electric brightness and lustre to every metal it touches. Without any powders or paste, simply by rubbing with this cloth, a brilliant lasting polish will be placed on Tableware, Gold, Silver, Nickel, Copper, Plated ware, Bicycles, Glass, etc. Bright, absolutely clean, and perfectly free from corrosive tarnish or dirt and will last. The Greatest Revolution in the Household. Takes the place of all Polishes, Powders, Pastes, Liquids and also Chamois Skins at less than one-quarter the cost. It is especially adapted for cleaning and polishing Metal or Glass Tableware.



Will Not Injure the Most Delicate Surface. It does not scratch! It works Wonders! and a child can use it! Will clean and polish just as well when black as when new. No matter how soiled the "cloth" may become, the black will not rub off and soil the hands. Can be used until entirely worn out. A moist portion will clean and a dry portion polish until the cloth is worn threadbare. Directions with every cloth. Simple and sure. Ready, Quick, Clean, Economical. The Greatest Invention of the Century.

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TWO COSTLY PRESENTS; YOU GET BOTH.

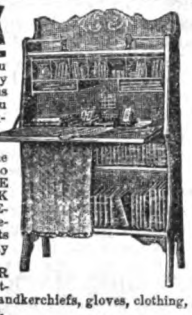
WE TRUST AGENTS with 12 new style, Stone Set, Enamel Scarf and Stick Pins, different patterns. Everybody wears them. Sell to your friends for 10 cents each, and we give you Free a Fine Gold or Silver laid Bracelet (with lock and key), also this magnificent Solid Gold laid Band Ring, handsomely engraved, a perfect beauty, wears a lifetime. Send name; no money required until pins are sold; we take all not sold. Address PEARL PIN CO., Providence, R. I.

Boys & Girls



We are giving away Watches, Cameras, Solid Gold Rings, Sporting Goods, Musical Instruments & many other valuable premiums to boys & girls for selling 18 packages of Royal English Ink Powder at 10c. each. Every package makes 50c. worth of fine ink. We ask no money—send your name and address & we will forward you 18 packages with premium list and full instructions. When you sell the Ink Powder send the money to us and select your premium. This is an honest offer. We trust you. Don't lose this grand opportunity. Write for the outfit today. Address all orders to IMPERIAL INK CONCERN, 22 Adams St. Oak Park, Ill.

FREE DESK



LADIES, BOYS AND GIRLS, do you want to receive an elegant and lovely Desk for a little work? If so, send us your full address and we will mail you POSTPAID, on consignment, 100 packages of our sweet and fragrant PERFUME to sell to friends and neighbors at 10 cents each. When sold, remit us the money and we will promptly forward to your address a most beautiful ANTIQUE OAK WRITING DESK AND BOOK CASE combined. This SPECIAL PREMIUM DESK is of a very handsome design and nearly five feet high, Oak Posts with Brass Rods on top shelf; beautifully finished throughout.

Our Perfume comes in POWDER FORM and is put up in neat and attractive packages and sells at sight; scents handkerchiefs, gloves, clothing, etc., with the aroma of fragrant flowers.

Remember, we TRUST YOU and give you ninety days to dispose of the Perfume. You run no risk whatever, as we take back all unsold goods, and allow you a present for packages sold, PROVIDING you have disposed of TWELVE or more. Premium Catalogue with each consignment which explains all. Order 100 packages at once, and address, PERFUME CO., Bridgewater, Conn.



FREE.

We will send a Sample of this Gold Plated Beauty Pin FREE to any person who sends a One Cent Stamp to pay postage; also our great new Christmas Catalogue of Jewelry and Novelties free. Address LYNN & CO., 48 Bond Street, New York City.

$20 GOLD PIECES GIVEN to Ladies, Girls and Boys, distributing our Soaps. Write to-day for particulars & Catalog of over 100 Free Premiums. Watches, Dress Goods, Suits, Bicycles, Couches, Cloaks, Etc. F. Parker, 306 S. Clinton St., Chicago.



Solid Gold or Silver

plated bracelet sent free to anyone for selling 5 sets of our LADIES GOLD plated Dress Pins for 25c. a set; (each pin set with an exquisite jewel.) Simply send your name & address & we will send you the pins postpaid. When sold, send us the money & we will send you the Bracelet. The chain is beautifully engraved and the lock opens with a dainty little key. We trust you and will take back all pins you cannot sell. Write to-day. Address
The Maxwell Co., Box P 535. St. Louis, Mo.

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56 PIECES FULL-SIZE, For Families.

Every person answering this advertisement can get a Handsomely Decorated Set, absolutely free—we mean it. A straight-forward, honest offer, by a reliable House to advertise its business, for everybody to accept. We ask NO MONEY with your name, send at once post-office address & nearest Express or Freight Depot. ☞ Remember every one can have their choice of Breakfast, Dinner or Tea Set Free. All sets carefully boxed & packed at our expense. ☜ No one is barred out of this offer—positively will not go back on it, no matter what it costs us. FASHIONS COMPANY
New York City, Dept. 23 B, P. O. Box 2617.



HAIR SWITCH 65 CENTS.

WE SELL HUMAN HAIR SWITCHES to match any hair at from 65c to $3.25, the equal of switches that retail at $2.00 to $8.00.

OUR OFFER: Cut this ad out and send to us, inclose a good sized sample of the exact shade wanted, and cut it out as near the roots as possible, inclose our special price quoted and 5 cents extra to pay postage, and we will make the switch to match your hair exact, and send to you by mail, postpaid, and if you are not perfectly satisfied, return it and we will immediately refund your money.

OUR SPECIAL OFFER PRICE AS FOLLOWS: 2-oz. switch, 20-in. long, long stem, 65c; short stem, 90c; 2-oz. 22-in. long, short stem, $1.25; 3-oz. 22-in. long, short stem, $1.50; 3-oz. 24-in. long, short stem, $2.25; 3½-oz. 26-in. long, short stem, $3.25. WE GUARANTEE OUR WORK the highest grade on the market. Order at once and get these special prices. Your money returned if you are not pleased. Write for Free Catalogue of Hair Goods. Address,
SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO. (Inc.) Chicago, Ill.
(Sears, Roebuck & Co. are thoroughly reliable.—Editor.)

WANTED Reliable men and women in every locality to advertise and introduce our goods which are recommended by some of the most celebrated men and women in America. Steady employment. Salary $20 per week. References required. Address OXIDINE MFG. CO., Manhattan Theatre Bldg., Broadway, New York.

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Extracts $1000. a day from Gold-bearing gravel. Greatest triumph of the century. Millions in sight. Shares now $1.00 a month. Safe as a bank. Send 4c. for "money maker." A. H. WILCOX COMPANY, 529 Broadway, - New York.

BIG JOB LOT OF SILK REMNANTS FOR CRAZY PATCH-WORK.

OWING to the hard times there has been dumped on the market an extra big lot of odd pieces of silk and satin that are just what ladies want for crazy patch-work. We were fortunate in securing them cheap, and will give one of our special PANIC PACKAGES to any one sending 10c. for a three months' subscription to COMFORT, the Prize Story Magazine. Three lots and an elegant piece of SILK PLUSH contain 36 square inches, together with five skeins of elegant embroidery silk, all different bright colors, all for 25c. postpaid; three 25c. lots for 65c., five for $1.00.

A Cute Foot-Rest FREE.



Useful Ornaments are sought after at all seasons of the year. People do not realize the quantities of goods that are sold through the mails. Inventors are daily trying to get up something to sell by mail that will be pretty, useful, and cheap. A pretty foot-rest could never be obtained at a low price before (they sell for $1.00 each at the stores), but by getting up something that is turned out by machines in pretty colored durable goods, to be filled with cotton or any cheap or cast-off substance and then sewn up, we can now give a premium that will be **welcome in every room in all the homes from Maine to California.** It comes in the shape of a handsome Spaniel *Bow-Wow*, lying down, size about 8x12 inches, and can always be placed for an ornament when not in use by grandma or yourself or company as a Foot Rest. It will create untold merriment when lying in front of the fire, it is so life-like in shape and color. Although entirely new, 57,393 have already been sold, and millions more will be in use before many months. Agents will find them great sellers, and should order at least a dozen to start with.

BIG OFFER. We will send a sample postpaid to anyone sending 13c., for a three months' subscription to this paper. Two Rests and this paper 6 months for 25c.; five for 50c.; one dozen, $1.00; one Rest and 10c. lot Remnants 20c.; one Rest and 25c. lot of Remnants, 25c.
Address COMFORT PUB. CO., Box 763, Augusta, Maine.

X RAY WONDER TUBE, 10c



The Wonder Tube is a wonderful toy which affords and creates astonishment among young and old. It shows the bones of the hand, the lead in a pencil, the hole through a pipe stem, etc. etc. It is a baffler to all, and we defy any one to give any explanation of it without taking the instrument apart, and this will disclose something beyond the power of man to reproduce. In using the Wonder Tube place it to the eye as shown in cut and look toward a window or other strong light (daylight is better than artificial light); then hold the fingers in front of the instrument, spread them apart, moving them backward and forward until the proper focus is obtained, when you will have the identical appearance shown by the Roentgen Rays.

Price post paid 10c Each; 3 for 25c; Doz., only 60c.
American Manufacturing Co., Dept. K., 168 Elm St., New York.

SILVER CAKE BASKET FREE FREE



We have lately taken a large amount of triple plate silverware on a debt and will send you this Elegant, Gold lined Silver Cake Basket free, all charges paid for a club of seven subscribers at 25c. each. This **Cake Basket** is of the latest pattern and will wear a life time. It is the finest silver plate, highly decorated with beautiful patent rolled edge. We only have a few of them left so get up your club of seven subscribers at 25c. each, to-day, and you will always enjoy it. You can sell this basket for $3.98 in a minute. If you can't get up the club, send us $1.38 cash and we will send the Basket by express and include one year's subscription. We also have a fine five Bottle Silver Castor and a Superb Silver Butter Dish at the same price if you prefer either one to the Basket. Address,
COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

TURKEYS FOR THANKSGIVING.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



THANKSGIVING day in New England without turkey would be like the play of Hamlet with the ghost left out. All New England farmers are aware of this, and all feel it to be a part of their yearly duties to raise and fatten the luscious bird in preparation for this great day of feasting; but most of them take to the business of turkey raising as a mere adjunct to their principal occupation. Here and there, however, is one who makes his bit of ground into a turkey farm and the immense piles of defunct and plucked turkeys in the markets of the adjacent cities at Thanksgiving time testify to his success in his chosen work. Simply to observe the "modus operandi" in a turkey raiser's life I visited such a farm recently, and for the benefit of the readers of COMFORT I will write down my observations there.

We left Providence, R. I., by steam cars, and jogged along leisurely, stopping at every tiny village on the way until we reached Warwick. Here we alighted, and found waiting for us a veritable ark of a covered wagon driven by a grizzly, gray, weather-beaten old man, whose deep-set blue eyes twinkled at us merrily from an unshaven face as he bade us a cheerful "good-day," and threw back the old brown buffalo robe as an invitation for us to sit beside him in the wagon. For two or three miles we rode along the country road, in the chill November air, catching a glimpse, occasionally, of a red or gray squirrel scampering over the stone wall which bordered the road, and now and then hearing the sharp "tap-tap-tap" of a woodpecker. At last we came in sight, simultaneously, of glints of the blue ocean in the distance, and, near by, of a large enclosure, embracing meadow, pasture, and woodland, and filled with hundreds of turkeys, of all colors and sizes—white and buff turkeys, long, slim and gray ones, stately bronze colored birds, jet black and shining silvery ones. They were all peacefully pursuing their usual turkish avocations, but the moment we alighted from the wagon and entered the wooden gate in the wall that surrounded them they flocked towards us from all quarters, crowding around their owner and eagerly watching for indications of corn.

The finest of all turkeys for eating purposes is the cross between the bronze and the wild turkey. They bring the highest prices, and the supply is seldom equal to the demand.

The most critical time of the year to turkey farmers is the breeding season. Turkeys are naturally rovers, and in nesting time are apt to steal away out of bounds if not carefully watched, and then the young brood is generally a total loss to the owner of the parent birds. Sometimes the farmer succeeds in "fooling" them by making them nests in secluded places within the inclosures where the mother "hen" sits placidly on her eggs, secure in the belief that she is out of the reach of the vandal man. After the young are hatched she discovers her mistake, but she cannot get her babies over the wall, so she yields to the inevitable and remains with them.

Within the enclosure grass and weeds are kept carefully cropped for young turkeys until they are two months old; they are very tender and delicate, and should they get their feathers thoroughly wet by running in tall grass they would almost certainly die. Constant care is therefore necessary to see that all the young broods are under cover upon the approach of rain or a sudden shower.

As Thanksgiving approaches the turkey farmer's anxieties and cares increase. The weather is carefully watched that no sudden chill may come to his fattening birds. As the cold increases so do the appetites of the turkeys, and the farmer's stock of corn sensibly diminishes, but with the decrease in the contents of the corncribs comes a rapidly gaining weight for the turkeys. As long as he can guard against a sudden chill the farmer welcomes and rejoices in "zero" weather, for the cold, sharp air inclines the birds to huddle together for warmth, so the fat acquired by indulgence in corn is not worn off by exercise.

Finally, for about three weeks before the great day, the doomed birds are fed upon what is to them a great luxury—chestnuts. These soaked and cracked open, are given them once each day for their noon meal. The turkeys are now in prime condition, and the closing act in their lives—the slaughter scene—is holiday play to the man who has anxiously watched and cared for them during the six or eight months of their existence.

A NOVEL TICKET PUNCH.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



IN all thinly inhabited countries, every man is largely a law unto himself. This was particularly so in the early days of railroad construction in Northern Mexico, for that country was then a haven of refuge for a swarm of desperadoes who openly set at defiance what little law there was. The following anecdote is illustrative of conditions then prevailing there:

A conductor was going through his train collecting fares, when he came to a rough looking man, an American, who was sitting with his back to the forward door of the car in which he was riding.

"Ticket, please," the conductor said politely; but the passenger seemed not to hear him.

"Ticket, please," he repeated, speaking louder, but the man still remained in apparent ignorance of his presence.

"Ticket, please," he said again, gently shaking the man by the shoulder.

"This is my ticket!" the passenger snarled savagely, with a quick motion pointing the muzzle of a cocked revolver at the conductor.

"That's good, sir! that's good!" returned the quick witted conductor. "Tickets, please," he went on, turning to the other passengers, and passing on toward the rear end of the car. When he had finished his collection, he turned, and going unconcernedly past the desperado, went out of the car by the forward door.

In a few minutes the door opened again, and the next moment the desperado felt something rubbing his head just back of his ear; he hastily turned his head around, and found himself gazing into the muzzle of a cocked rifle that was held in the conductor's hands.

Leaning slightly toward the desperado, the conductor said, courteously: "Will you kindly let me punch that ticket of yours?"

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SWANSON'S "5 DROPS" never fails to cure. It has cured and is curing millions of people afflicted with ACUTE and CHRONIC RHEUMATISM, SCIATICA, NEURALGIA, ASTHMA, LA GRIPPE and CATARRH of all kinds. "5 DROPS" has never failed to cure these diseases, when used as directed. It will cure you. Try it.. Price of large sized bottle $1.00 sent on receipt of price, charges prepaid. 25-cent sample bottle sent free, on receipt of 10 cents to pay for mailing. Agents wanted. SWANSON'S RHEUMATIC CURE COMPANY, No. 164 Lake Street, Chicago, Ill.

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Send us only 5c. and we send you **Six** Gold Plated lever collar buttons, either for Gentlemen or Ladies. This can only be done to introduce our great catalogue of Novelties. **5 cents for 6.** Write to-day to COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

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Send stamp for **illustrated catalog**, now ready. **THE H. & D. FOLSOM ARMS CO., 314 B'way. P. O. Box 1114. New York.**

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The Asbestos Pipe CANNOT BE TOLD FROM CIGAR, holds an ordinary pipe full tobacco and will last for years. Sample by mail with catalog to agents 10c. Stamps taken. Sells Like Hot Cakes. MURPHY BROS. STAMFORD, CONN.

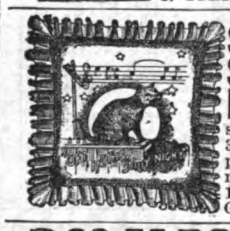
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A Regular $5.00 WATERPROOF MACKINTOSH for $2.75 **Send no Money.** Cut this ad. out and send to us, state your HEIGHT and WEIGHT, state number of inches around body at Breast taken over vest under coat close up under arms, and we will send you this coat by express C. O. D., subject to examination; examine and try it on at your nearest express office and if found exactly as represented and the most wonderful value you ever saw or heard of and equal to any coat you can buy for $5.00, pay the express agent our special offer price, $2.75, and express charges. **THIS MACKINTOSH** is latest 1899 style, made from heavy waterproof, tan color, genuine Davis Covert Cloth; extra long, double breasted, Sager velvet collar, fancy plaid lining, waterproof sewed, strapped and cemented seams, suitable for either rain or overcoat, and guaranteed greatest value ever offered by us or any other house. For Free Cloth Samples of Men's Mackintoshes up to $5.00, and Made-to-Measure Suits and Overcoats at from $5.00 to $10.00, write for Free Book No. 80 B. Address, **SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO., CHICAGO, ILL.** (Sears, Roebuck & Co. are thoroughly reliable.—Editor.)



A Labor-Saving device entirely new and universal in demand. Will last a lifetime and costs but Twenty-five cents. Just on the market and over 500 Gross sold last month. Every family in the land wants one or more. All you do to sell them is simply show the lady of the house or the office man how it works on his window and you will depart with one less every time, but in its place a quarter.

The Magical Sponge differs from the ordinary sponge in nature, while the common sponge is of vegetable origin and found in the ocean, the Magical Sponge is a mineral production and found in the United States, dug from the ground, carefully prepared and manufactured into sponges for the Housekeeper, Merchant, Liveryman, Metal Workers, and all persons who desire to keep their homes, offices, and business places in a clean and healthy condition.

No Soap or water is needed or even used with the Magical Sponge for Cleaning Windows or any outside Metal. In the winter time it has no equal, it does not freeze, and no water being used (other than what is in the sponge) all trouble and hard work is avoided. For Cleaning Baseboards, Window Sills, Wainscoating and painted surfaces, it acts like a charm; takes all the finger marks, spots, grease and dirt away, leaving a Clean, Polished Surface.

Good men wanted all over the country to handle these goods, big inducements offered steady workers, and exclusive sale. To Agents, Salesmen, and house to house canvassers, who send us 25 cents for a 6 months' subscription, we will send one sample post paid, and make them a business proposition. Write at once. Secure your territory. Address COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.



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NO MONEY required with your order. Cut this ad. out and send us your order and we will send you this Swell Silk Seal Plush Cape, 22 in. long, reaching 6 in. below waist, lined throughout with black Sateen, edged all around with black Russian curly Thibet fur, fully worth $10—our price..... **$3.50**



Silk Plush Cape Worth $10 for **$3.50**

Give neck and bust measure when ordering; will send C. O. D. Try it on and if you find it the biggest bargain you ever saw pay agent $3.50 and express charges and the cape is yours. If you prefer will send cape prepaid on receipt of price and 40c express charges.

GUARANTEE with every garment: if plush or lining wear out before two years a new Cape Free.

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The handsomest and best watch in the world for the money, superbly engraved, double Hunting case, stem wind and stem set, fitted with a high grade ruby jeweled movement, absolutely guaranteed for

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Cut this out and send it to us and we will send you the watch by express for examination. If as represented, pay our special price $3.75 and express charges and it is yours. Mention if you desire ladies' or gents' size. Order today, as we will send out samples at this reduced price for 60 days only.
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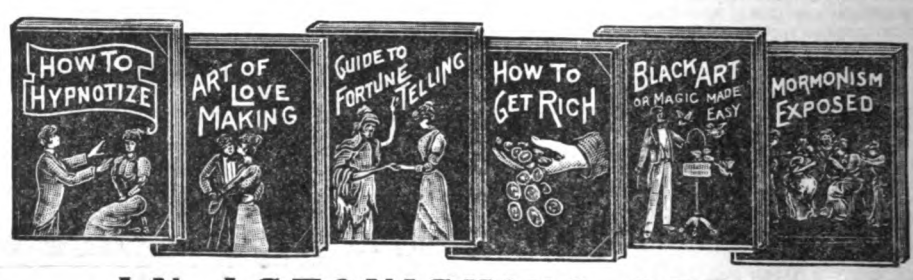
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The Ancient Game of Football.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



THE great Duke of Wellington was once asked to what he attributed the nerve and courage displayed on the field of Waterloo by the British soldiers. To the surprise of all he answered, "To football." There may have been a great deal of truth in the answer for the game of football is calculated to give the players nerve, courage and endurance.

Though cricket may be called the national game of England, yet it is undoubtedly true that football is the most popular. Last season the game played between Notts and Derby County drew a crowd of 50,000 people while the game between Everton and Aston Villa, for the trophy, the English cup, a year before, was witnessed by over 70,000 persons.

Football has been played in England since the time of Cæsar, his victorious soldiers introducing it to the admiring natives. The game was known to the Greeks more than three thousand years ago and though the historians do not tell us the rules under which it was then played there is every reason to believe that it differed but slightly from the modern game.

For hundreds of years the Malays have indulged in a game resembling football, and as far back as the history of Scandinavia goes we find evidences of a similar game played in Norway, Sweden, Iceland and among the people still farther north.

The earliest description of the English game is given by William Fitzstephen, in his history of London, written in the twelfth century. The apprentices played against each other, and the various guilds offered prizes to be competed for on the football field.

In the middle ages the game was recognized as a national pastime, and all classes played it. In the fourteenth century the game was made a medium for hate, revenge and murder by some of the rougher elements. To openly injure another was dangerous for punishment was summary, but to engage in a game of football and under cover of it kill an enemy, was a safe way of having revenge for real or fancied injury.

These brutish practices, however, were not characteristic of the game but were only indulged in by the lawless. Barclay, in the "*Ship of Fools*," written in 1509, tells us that:

"The sturdie plowman, lustie, strong and bold,
Overcometh the winter with driving the footeball,
Forgetting labour and many a grievous fall."

History is silent on the subject of the ball itself, and it is hard to discover what kind of balls were used. That the leather case was used in early times is proved by Shakespeare who causes Dromio of Ephesus, in the "Comedy of Errors," to say:

"Am I so round—
That like a football thou dost spurn me thus?
You spurn me hence, and he will spurn me hither;
If I last in this service, you must case me in leather."
(*act II, s 1.*)

The game was played on all holidays, but the favorite day of all others was Shrove Tuesday. Sometimes the feeling would become so bitter that all through Lent the players would be wishing for Easter Monday when they could again play, this time not for sport but vengeance.

In the reign of James I, the game became so rough that the king issued a proclamation against rough sport, "as football, meeter for lameing than making able the users thereof."

There is an amusing description of the ancient game ascribed to Herodotus, the father of history, in whose imaginary Tenth Book the following quaint paragraph occurs:

"They obtain the skin of a pig or other beast, and when the skin has been sewn up, in form like an olive fruit, but in size as great as a man's head, in such a way that water poured into it will not run out of it again, they retire to a plain on the other side of the river, and there they fill the hide, not with water, or with anything else than air. Now the hide, filled with air, is driven about by the feet of these young men, by some quickly, but by others more slowly, but of the young men those who are unable to strike the hide with their feet, strike not the hide, but the legs of him whosoever may chance to be nearest to them. But he crieth out, and if possible overthroweth him that struck him."

While cricket only finds its votaries among the few, and is long in getting a foothold in other nations, football fascinates at once and becomes popular the first time it is played. The Chinese, Burmese and Malays are crack players while the natives of India enter into the spirit of the game with an almost religious fervor.

The Malays practice kicking a wickerwork ball from one to the other without touching it with the hand or allowing it to come in contact with the ground. By this practice they become excellent football players.

Each county, each school and in fact each team of players used to have different rules, so that there was an utter lack of uniformity. The great English schools, Eton, Harrow and Rugby, did much to make the modern game one of skill and science. Each school introduced new features and several forms of football were developed. It was not until the year 1860 that Football Clubs came into recognized existence, but still there was not any uniformity in playing. On October 26, 1863, the English Football Association was established and the game began to make progress. The Rugby Union was formed in 1871 and though a strong effort was made to unite the two organizations it was unsuccessful because, "the styles of play of each were so diametrically opposed, that it was found utterly impossible to arrive at a common understanding." Professionalism in football playing was not recognized in England until 1888, though, of course men had played for money before that time.

Professionalism has made the game popular because it has enabled the players to bring it down to the level of a science.

In 1875 Harvard and Yale played their first game of football in accordance with the rules adopted in 1866 which excluded all the brutal features of the game. Soon after the game became popular with all our colleges and from the first of October to the last of November it would almost appear to a casual observer that football was the sole end and aim of the colleges, so enthusiastic are the students over this most ancient form of manly amusement.

THE smallest passenger train in the world is one running through the park of a wealthy country gentleman in England. The cylinders of its locomotive, which is, by the way, proportioned perfectly after one of the big engines on the Great Northern Railroad, are four inches in diameter, and the diameter of the driving wheels is thirty inches. The track upon which this tiny engine and its cars run is eighteen inches in width. Small as it is this engine weighs two and one half tons, and can haul, on a level track, a weight of fifteen tons. The train consists of a passenger and a baggage car which the engine can draw at a speed of twenty-five miles an hour. The rails weigh only nine pounds to the yard.

IN the search lights so necessary in all sea travel or warfare the mirror plays an important part. The electric light can be easily furnished, but the mirrors are scarce and hard to procure. They are not ordinary reflectors which can be cast and molded, but require much care and labor in their construction. They are really concave lenses, backed by silver and hardened vulcanite. The glass is first molded into shape in the ordinary way and then a grinding machine is set to work upon it to give it the necessary curve and polish. It is then tested and, if satisfactory, the silver back is put on by electrolysis and this back is covered by an opaque substance, generally vulcanite. It requires at least a week to turn out a finished mirror suitable for a search light.

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GOLDEN MOMENTS, Augusta, Maine.

TURQUOISE MINING.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



THE turquoise is at the present time a fashionable gem, and is often seen encircled with diamonds, its exquisite blue contrasting happily with the crystal glitter of its brilliant setting. Until about ten years ago, the markets of the world were supplied for 5000 years by one province in the northeastern part of Persia, and the demand for fine stones has always been in excess of the supply, though inferior turquoises can scarcely be sold at any price. Since it became known that these great mines are nearly exhausted, there has been an incentive for miners to seek this beautiful gem in other countries. Discoveries of turquoise-bearing rock were made several years ago in New Mexico and Arizona, by prospectors who opened up shafts and cuts, that evidently had been worked centuries ago by some unknown race. Stone hammers and other rude implements were found buried beneath the surface of the ground; and, in one place, there is a dump 200 feet high, covering several acres, on which trees three or four hundred years old are growing. In Cochise county, Arizona, there is a deposit of green turquoise, showing traces of having been worked long before the occupation of the country by white men.

The most recently opened turquoise mine in America, and the most valuable one as well, is situated in the southwestern corner of Nevada, about thirty-five miles from the Colorado river, and within ten miles of the boundary line between Nevada and California. To reach it, one leaves the Santa Fe transcontinental railway line at a station on the Mojave desert called Blake, and takes a little mixed passenger and freight train that goes three times a week to the gold-mining camp of Vanderbilt, thirty miles to the north, and 5000 feet above the sea, for the camp is closely encircled by mountains. Here a conveyance must be procured for the seventeen-mile drive to the turquoise mines. Their owner had been a gold prospector for years, and had traveled over almost every foot of ground in that elevated portion of the Mojave desert. One day he came across a ledge which he knew to be similar in character to the turquoise rock of New Mexico, with which he was familiar.

After working awhile, he found that large pits had been excavated in the ledge at some remote period, and afterward filled with *debris*. At the bottom were numerous hammers and stone polishers of primitive construction, and the sides of the excavations were stained by fire. The ancients extracted precious metals and stones from the ledges by the crude method of heating the rock, then throwing cold water on it until cracks appeared, exposing the treasures to view. A well-defined ledge of trachytic porphyry is shown in these claims, and the metamorphic agencies that produced the gems are plainly visible. All through the rock are turquoises of excellent quality. In most of the claims, which are twelve in number, they are found in the form of nodules, each enclosed in a matrix of kaolin or other clayey stuff; in the others, it appears in streaks or small veins. The great Persian mines seldom extend to a depth of more than one hundred feet, but this formation has been so comprehensively exposed by cross-cuts in a gulch below the present workings that it is known to go down



A TURQUOISE MINE.

350 feet, possibly much farther. The mines were discovered in May, 1897, and produced gems the first year which attracted the attention of experts in precious stones. One light blue specimen weighed sixty-four carats, and was the largest turquoise that had been out in America at that time. Another, darker in shade, weighed thirty-two carats; and another, twenty-seven carats. These were thought remarkable by jewelers; but they were eclipsed in 1898 by two gems, each weighing more than 140 carats, which their owner named "Texas," (for his native State), and "Nevada."

The value of turquoises depends on several things besides their size—color, freedom from blemishes, hardness, and susceptibility to polish. The product of this new mine is proving of the first class, and dealers in the large cities of this country and of Europe are glad to handle it. An objection to many turquoises is that they fade out nearly white in a few months after being cut, when the per cent. of water in them has evaporated. Those found in the Nevada mines bear the brand "True Blue," and stand the color test perfectly. This branch of mining is much less expensive than the extraction of gold or silver ore, with all the attendant details of complicated machinery, costly reduction works, etc. Two or three trustworthy men, with a few simple appliances, can secure enough gems from the soft talo formation to keep a lapidary busy and yield a handsome profit to the owner of the mines.

Though not classed with the most precious stones, large turquoises of fine quality are valuable. A sixty-carat stone is worth $4000. Ring stones retail at from $25 to $100 each, the price being $16 a carat. A large proportion of the rough material taken from the ledges is not marketable at any price, but there is always a demand for good stones. There is a great deal of loss in the cutting, when some of the nodules prove too soft, and others fly to pieces on the wheel. All turquoises do not turn out to be gems. Many sham turquoises are in the market. Odontolite—the tooth or bone of the extinct elephant called the mammoth, is preserved in the ice of Siberia and palmed off as turquoise. It emits an odor when heated by which it can be detected. Callainite is another substance that is sold for the genuine article. Though lighter and duller in color than turquoise, it has sufficient resemblance to the real gem to be deceptive.

Centuries ago, turquoises were highly esteemed. The Aztecs almost revered them. None have ever been produced in Mexico, so it is a question whence came the numerous fine specimens that Friar Mancos de Nixa, Coronado, and others found freely used for ornamentation in the southwestern part of this country, in the 16th century. The most reasonable supposition is that they were obtained from the workings in New Mexico, Arizona and southern Nevada that have recently been reopened. The ambassador sent by Montezuma to Cortez brought four *chalchihuitls*, (the Mexican term for turquoises), with him, each of them described as being worth more than "a load of gold," and among the crown jewels of Spain are turquoises of great value that were presented to Charles V. by the ruler of the strange new country across the seas. This gem became known in Europe when Alexander the Great and his soldiers returned from their conquests in Asia, bringing with them many rare jewels. Shakespeare has immortalized it by making Shylock declare that he would not have lost his turquoise ring "for a whole wilderness of monkeys." In 1609, an English writer asserted that no gentleman's elegance was complete unless he possessed a fine turquoise. In Germany, it is the favorite engagement ring.

Superstition surrounds the gem with an atmosphere of good luck, in contrast to the glowing opal. According to an Oriental proverb, "A turquoise given by a loving hand carries with it happiness and fortune."

It is the birthstone of all who were born in bleak December, and for such we have the rhyme,

"If cold December gave you birth,
The month of snow and ice and mirth,
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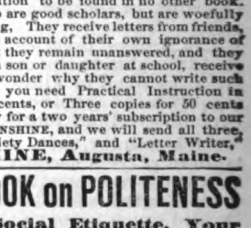


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Holland, Its Dykes, Dunes, Canals and Polders.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



THE existence of Holland today is due to the unceasing struggle of its people to hold that which they have won from the sea by centuries of toil. Winds, waves and grasping neighbors have tested the right of possession with the Hollanders; undismayed, they have continued to pile up ridges of mud, strengthened them by the interlacing fibres of the roots of the willow and poplar trees, and driven millions of piles through the soft morass to reach the firmer soil beneath.

Upon these artificial mounds they built cities and ships to sail from them, originating a commerce which brought wealth and luxury to Holland. Sea walls were constructed, dykes constantly lengthened and strengthened, morasses, lakes and abandoned peat beds drained, a remarkable network of canals furnished communication throughout the country as a once worthless marsh was brought into a condition of extraordinary fertility. It would be well-nigh impossible to find a more sublime picture of patient toil resulting in final triumph, than in the Hollanders' contest with the sea. Eight hundred years ago Holland contained but 600 square miles; the present area is nearly 13,000 square miles, with a dense population of about 5,000,000.

As the larger portion of the land lies below the level of the sea, the dykes and dunes are of the greatest importance in preserving it from the encroachments of the sea, while the canals, windmills and sluices are other features of the elaborate system which prevents the long-baffled waves from engulfing the low lying cities and plains. The dunes or sand hills are formed by the action of winds and waves, while the dykes are a credit to the persevering industry of the plodding Hollanders. These dunes rise on the north coast from thirty to one hundred and thirty feet, and cover and uncover large areas as the winds blow the sand from point to point. These white hills are a fit supplement to the ghostly fogs, the gray, misty atmosphere and other characteristic features of this quaint land.

Many dykes are embankments of earth, clay and sand, held together by the roots of trees that line them or a kind of coarse grass that is planted for that purpose. Others are of the most substantial masonry; hundreds of miles of such have been constructed along the north coast from 25 to 40 feet high and 20 to 30 feet wide at the top. Sometimes wagon roads are laid out on the top of a dyke or a railroad built there giving to the traveller an incomparable view of the "Hollow Land." On the one side the gray North Sea beats against the strong wall that holds it back, and on the other stretches away thrifty Holland with its fertile fields, grazing herds, busy canals, countless windmills, picturesque villages and prosperous cities.

In Friesland alone two hundred miles of the coast is dyked; at one point three rows of piles forty or fifty feet in length have been driven down for sixty miles, then strengthened by great timbers brought from Norway, spiked and banded with iron.

The coast at Helder is exposed to the sweep of the entire North Sea, and to protect it in 1819-1825, the famous Helder dyke was constructed of Norway granite; it is five miles long, from twelve to fifteen feet wide, and the massive bulwarks that hold it in place extend 200 feet into the water. During a storm the waves dash furiously against this barrier, often rising twenty feet above the level of the land it guards. Another upon the island of Walcherin is built of clay, sand, stones and wood, which is noted for its strength and solidity; it is maintained at an annual cost of $30,000.

The hundreds of miles of dykes belong to the Dutch government, which expends $3,000,000 annually in keeping them in good condition. A corps of engineers known as "*De Waterstaat*," have especial care of the dykes, also of the elaborate system of drainage, by means of the numerous canals, which serve many useful purposes. They drain the country, take the place of fences or hedges and furnish means of communication throughout the land. One of the two principal canals extends from Amsterdam to the Helder, a distance of 46 miles; this is 130 feet wide and twenty feet deep. The North Sea Canal is fifteen miles long, reaching from Amsterdam to the east coast, and is from two to three hundred feet wide. Both of these are provided with immense sluice gates and cost enormous sums.

Not only is the incoming of the sea to be guarded against, but the rivers and lakes are a constant menace. For instance, when the spring rains come in Germany and the heavy snows melt, the Rhine brings down a vast volume of water, which would submerge the whole land without the utmost vigilance. Three immense locks with five, three and two gates have been constructed to control the flow of the waters, if these sluice gates are opened at low tide and the rapid rush of water carries away the sand which has accumulated at high tide, so that the waters can make their exit to the sea.

Night and day, the dykes are guarded by watchmen, whose duty it is to see that not the slightest orifice appears to give entrance to the water, as it would enlarge minute by minute, hour by hour until a great chasm would be made, through which a mighty, rushing flood would overwhelm the land. Their past history has taught the necessity of such constant care; no country has suffered as Holland has from inundations which have drowned thousands of inhabitants, destroyed villages and towns, and permanently submerged great tracts of land. A willful injury to a dyke is accounted a crime, and is punished according to the degree of the offence, by a fine, imprisonment, or, in some aggravated cases, by death. Such extreme measures are of the past; stringent laws, and an enlightened public opinion suffice at this present time.

Another work of the government is reclaiming land that has been submerged for centuries; these lands are called *polders*, and possess some advantages; the soil is rich, not requiring an artificial stimulant, and as they lie below the level of canals and rivers, the fields never suffer from drought. There are a number of these *polders*, but the most important one at this time is the Haarlem. An inundation in the sixteenth century united small lakes near Amsterdam, into one, the Haarlem Lake. This was eighteen miles long, nine wide, with an average depth of twelve feet. At high water it invariably overflowed its banks, but in 1836 the destruction of Amsterdam and other cities was threatened, and the government decided to dyke and drain it. The work was completed in 1850, and though it cost more than a million of dollars it has well repaid the expenditure, furnishing homes for 10,000 inhabitants upon fertile farms, where there are the most productive gardens in all Holland.

This was a marvelous feat of engineering skill, but Holland is preparing for a more gigantic one, the draining of the Zuyder Zee. This great gulf only came into existence at the time of a destructive flood in the thirteenth century, and its average depth is only eleven feet. The Haarlem Lake gave back 45,000 acres of land, this will give 500,000. The design is to divide the Zee into four parts, build great dykes, and from one portion after the other, gradually pump out the water, leaving a lake in the centre of the new polder, connected by canals with the other great canals, completing a system of water ways navigable for large ships. The project is colossal; its execution will require thirty years and the estimated cost is $50,000,000.

When the task is finished, Holland will have 800 square miles more of territory adding to her national wealth twelve times the sum expended; at the same time she will have demonstrated anew to the world the courage and moral greatness of a people, who under such natural disadvantages possess the patience, perseverance and skill necessary to compel the waters to give back the lands which they engulfed hundreds of years ago.

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But you say you feel generally miserable or suffer with a thousand and one indescribable bad feelings, both mental and physical? Among them low spirits, nervousness, weariness, lifelessness, weakness, dizziness 'feelings of fullness or bloating after eating, or sense of "goneness" or emptiness of stomach in morning, flesh soft and lacking firmness, headache, blurring of eyesight, specks floating before the eyes, nervous irritability, poor memory, chilliness, alternating with hot flushes, lassitude, throbbing, gurgling, or rumbling sensations in bowels, with heat and nipping pains occasionally, palpitation of heart, short breath on exertion, slow circulation of blood. Don't your hands and feet become cold and clammy, do you HAWK AND SPIT and expectorate greenish colored matter? IS your urine scanty or high colored and does it deposit a sediment after standing? You have pain and oppression in chest and back, pain around the loins, aching and weariness of the lower limbs, drowsiness after meals, but nervous wakefulness at night, languor in the morning and a constant feeling of dread as if something awful was about to happen.



There Is Help for You. You Can Yet Be Happy.

I have an appliance. The only way to introduce it is to let you try it FREE. You will tell others if it helps you. It is perfectly harmless. Send us your name we are looking for real sufferers and knowing it will do you good you can cure yourself without trouble or expense. This article is perfectly safe and reliable, can be worn day and night, all of the time or part of the time and in any place or spot on the body that feels sick or shows pain—it is most marvelous acting and is the greatest God-send you ever heard of. After you use it and you feel its power you will say $25 would not have prevented me from sending for it. It acts just as well on man or woman.

THE ONLY CONDITIONS.

We send one all charges paid. It is Medical and we are obliged to put on Revenue stamps. Therefore as we furnish them entirely free we simply ask you to send us TEN CENTS for mailing, etc. We trust to your honor to tell others about the cure and know many will be sold thereby. We do not ask you to send any more money unless you want others to sell at a profit after you try it. Address,
G. O. COMPANY, Box 654, Augusta, Maine

AN OBLITERATED TRAGEDY.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



THE world has seen few tragedies more pathetic than that which culminated when Mary Queen of Scots was executed. Is it merely a coincidence that today, of Fotheringhay Castle, the powerful fortress in which the Queen was beheaded, only one stone remains, and that in all Great Britain no drawing or likeness of the castle can be found.

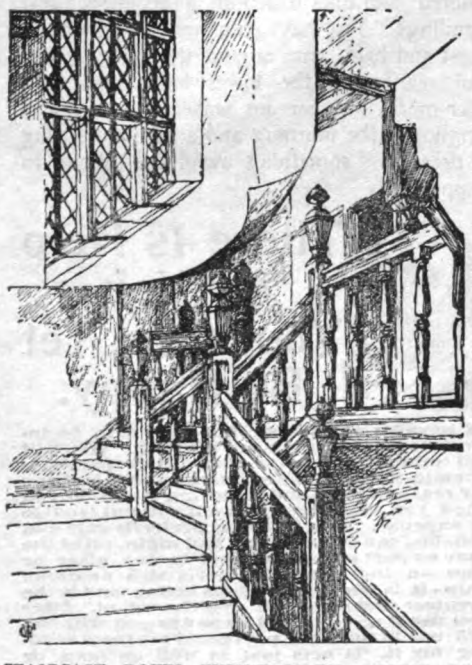
There is an old legend, current all over England, that when, after the death of Queen Elizabeth, James of Scotland, Queen Mary's son, became king of England, he cursed the castle of Fotheringhay, in which his mother had suffered such an awful death, and commanded that it be blotted off the face of the earth.

Not long ago I spent several weeks at Oundle, an English town two miles from the site of Fotheringhay, and found it interesting to study on the ground itself the history of this spot. Fotheringhay today consists of a tiny village of stone cottages clustered near one of the oldest and quaintest churches in all England. Past the village flows the river Nene, a narrow but deep and sluggish stream. Travelers coming from the south cross the Nene here by an old stone bridge called the "Perio Bridge." Just as this bridge connects Fotheringhay to the southern country so its name links the life of today with the troubled times of Mary and Elizabeth.

It is said that through all the weary years of Mary's imprisonment, before she came to Fotheringhay, she never lost the hope that Queen Elizabeth would eventually pardon her. Six months before her death a royal order came for her to be transferred to Fotheringhay, and she was brought there under guard. Just as the cavalcade reached the bridge over the Nene, a horn was heard to sound not far away. Mary declared that this was a courier coming from the Queen with her pardon, and commanded that her retinue be delayed. Her wish was granted, but after a little delay it was learned that the horn was only that of a huntsman in the forest. When this information was brought to her Mary exclaimed in Latin, which language she spoke fluently, "Perio," which means "I perish." And ever since this has been called the "Perio Bridge."

A huge mound of sand beside the river marks the site of the castle. From the top of this mound it is possible to trace the outlines of the walls and moat which defended the castle. The river Nene was the chief protection on one side. Thistles grow on the mound now, and the damp places which were the moat are masses of forget-me-nots. The sandy mound is honey-combed with rabbit burrows, and even now the energetic legs of these animals sometimes kick out a bit of human bone. Of the castle itself only one stone remains, a big, shapeless rock, weighing several tons, down by the river side.

Romantic as is the legendary reason given for the disappearance of the castle I hardly think, myself, that it is true. It seems more probable that after Queen Mary's death the property changed hands several times, in the wars which followed, and that it was neglected until it was in such poor repair that it was not judged worth restoration. As a result it was sold piecemeal to any one who wanted to buy building material, both wood and stone, until in the course of a hundred years or so all of it was carted away except this one rock, too heavy to be moved intact and of too little value to be quarried. The Talbot Inn, at Oundle, a quaint old hostlery of stone, is said to have been built of material brought from Fotheringhay, and there seems to be good reason to think the rumor true. A superb old oak staircase in the Inn came from the castle, and was undoubtedly the one down which Queen Mary went to her death. I used to stand at the head of these steps, and closing my eyes, imagine that I heard the sweep of the Queen's black velvet gown as the mournful little procession went down to the great hall of the castle.



STAIRCASE DOWN WHICH MARY QUEEN OF SCOTS WENT TO HER DEATH.

Mary was confined at Fotheringhay for the last six months before her execution. It is said that during this time she sowed the seeds of some Scottish thistles sent her, and that the thistles now growing on the castle's site are the result. I do not know that this is so. I only know that the thistles are there, and that the variety is one which is not at all common in that part of England. I dug up a plant and brought it carefully home and set it out in the garden, where, at last accounts it was growing finely.

We who in America can look upon so few monuments of tragic history stand almost appalled on ground like Fotheringhay. The very site itself probably marks a scene of battle, since historians say that the mound on which the castle stood is of artificial construction, built there by the Angles and Danes as a vantage ground from which to defend a ford by which the river was crossed at that point before the bridge was built. The first castle on the spot was built by Simon de St. Liz, who had married a great niece of William the Conqueror. It was almost always royal property, and almost always seemed to bring a curse upon its owner.

One of the first owners of Fotheringhay was Mary of Valence, that unhappy Countess of Pembroke whose husband, married to her only an hour before, was killed at a tournament held to celebrate their wedding. She lived all her life-long widowhood at Fotheringhay and when she died devoted her whole fortune to founding Pembroke Hall, Cambridge, to her husband's memory. Her successor was that Duke of York who was smothered in his armor at the battle of Agincourt. This man's brother Duke of Cambridge, who succeeded him, was beheaded on a charge of conspiracy against King Henry V. The son of the last named owner, another Duke of York, was killed at the battle of Wakefield Green, and his twelve-year-old son was killed with him. This death sent another unhappy widow, the Duchess Cecily, to live for thirty-six years at Fotheringhay, until her own death occurred. While there she had to mourn the cruel death of her two grandsons, the two little Princes in the Tower, and to have only too good reason to fear that their murderer was their own uncle and her son, evil Richard III, who, very fittingly, had been born at Fotheringhay.

Many of these semi-royal personages are buried in or around the old church, and I deciphered on the end of the stone communion table there this inscription: "Sissily, Dutchess of York, Daughter to Raulfe Nevell, first Earl of Westmoreland."

Early in the reign of King Henry VIII he settled Fotheringhay Castle upon his first queen, Catherine of Aragon, who repaired it at great expense, and seems to have been fond of the place until her husband, enamored of some of her successors, proposed to make the castle Queen Catherine's prison. Then she declared that she would never go there again unless "bound with a halter rope." Eventually, though, she was buried at Peterborough Cathedral, only ten miles from Fotheringhay.

Is it any wonder that Mary, Queen of Scots, when she learned that Fotheringhay was to be her destination said that she saw written over the castle gate, "Abandon hope all ye that enter here?"

FREE HAIR FOOD.

All who wish to be cured of dandruff, save their hair and grow more should send name, age and full address, with a small lock of hair extracted from roots (5 or 6 hairs sufficient), and a statement of the present condition of scalp to THE CRANITONIC HAIR FOOD CLINIC, 526 West Broadway, New York, and you will get a *free bottle, by mail prepaid*, with full directions for use, and a free report on the condition of your hair, after a scientific microscopic examination has been made in the Cranitonic Laboratories, the only Hair and Scalp Clinic in America devoted to the study of hair and scalp diseases.

Vienna's oldest painter, Rudolf Abt, has been voted a pension of $480 a year.

PLEASE TRY Cascarets CANDY CATHARTIC REGULATE THE LIVER

10c. 25c. 50c. All Druggists. 302.

I CURE FITS

When I say I cure I do not mean merely to stop them for a time and then have them return again. I mean a radical cure. I have made the disease of FITS, EPILEPSY or FALLING SICKNESS a life-long study. I warrant my remedy to cure the worst cases. Because others have failed is no reason for not now receiving a cure. Send at once for a treatise and a Free Bottle of my infallible remedy. Give Express and Post Office.

Prof. W. H. PEEKE, F.D., 4 Cedar St., N.Y.

A Gold-Lined Silver Dish FREE!



To introduce our new line of **Quadruple Plated Silverware** we will for 30 days send either one of these beautiful **gold lined fluted top Quadruple Plated Silver dishes FREE** to any one sending a club of two yearly subscribers to SUNSHINE at 25c each, or send both dishes, all charges paid, for a club of three at 25c. each. These goods are made up in the latest 1899 style, are guaranteed to wear well, as they are the best quadruple plate. The very lowest store price of either article is not less than $1.00 or $1.50, and as these beautiful articles can be used for all sorts of eatables either on dining or side tables, they make invaluable household necessities as well as beautiful ornaments. We will for a short time send either style dish free to all who send 37c, for a year's subscription or will send both dishes, all charges paid, if you remit 62c. for a two years' subscription to SUNSHINE, the great home monthly. Don't delay but send at once. We can quote you wholesale rates on our new Premium goods that will get you rich. Address **SUNSHINE, Augusta, Maine.**



SENT FREE TO MEN

A Discovery for Lost Manhood Sent Free to Every Sufferer Who Will Write for It.

G. B. WRIGHT WAS RESTORED TO HEALTH AND MAKES A GENEROUS OFFER.

Geo. B. Wright, a merchant and well-known citizen of Marshall, Mich., who was permanently cured of lost manhood and nervous debility after declining health for years offers to send the medical prescription that effected the



cure to every reader of COMFORT who is suffering today as he suffered. All who will drop him a letter asking for a copy of the prescription will receive it by return mail free of charge. As certain as a wound leaves a scar, and as sure as effect follows cause, do men live to repent their follies and indiscretions in weakness and suffering. The tortured sufferer may bear no tell-tale marks of ruin upon his face to betray his lost manhood. He goes to his grave a human wreck, and never tells of his sufferings for fear of shame. Such mental anguish at times drives him to the verge of desperation, and he is easy prey for those vultures in human form—quack doctors—who hold out alluring hopes of cure only to disappoint, and after robbing him of his money, plunge him into absolute despair.

No one can appreciate these horrors of lost manhood except he who has suffered them. No one can help such sufferers except he who knows a cure and has himself been restored to full manhood. A notable cure of lost manhood in an extreme case was effected in the person of Geo. B. Wright, a music dealer and well-known citizen of Marshall, Mich. Mr. Wright for years suffered the agony of lost vital power. He saw his physical powers go from him as the result of insidious disease until he was reduced to a condition of senility, and the best doctors in the country gave him up to die.

Like many others, he tried the various remedies offered by specialists for the treatment of weaknesses peculiar to men and it was this experience that drove him to a little study and research for his own benefit.

He asserts that his 10 years' suffering, both mentally and physically, was turned to undoubted joy in a single night through a rare combination of medicines that literally made him young again. It is the prescription of this discovery that his enthusiasm leads him to offer free to any man, young or old, who feels that his animation or the fire of ambition has left him and needs something that will not only brace him up and enable him to be prepared for any undertaking which may present itself but will restore the parts to their original size and vigor.

There is no question but what in his individual case the results were just as described, and it seems quite probable that any man who believes himself to be weak may profit by sending for this free prescription. Many people wonder how he can afford to send this prescription free, but it costs him but little to do so, and he feels a philanthropic interest in giving weak men an opportunity to cure themselves.

A request to G. B. Wright, music dealer, Box 811, Marshall, Mich., for his free prescription, will be promptly and privately complied with by return mail.



CHINESE PUZZLE.

WE ASK NOT ONE CENT of your Money. This Picture Puzzle represents a *Celestial engaged at washing.* About him are pictured faces of *three customers.* Find these faces, mark each, and return to us. To each patron who can interpret this puzzle, we will give a full size *Fountain Pen and Filler.*

A PRIZE

FOR EVERY CORRECT ANSWER

IN making this marvellous offer, we have no desire to pose as benefactors. It is a business transaction to introduce **CANDIED CRUSHED CARNATIONS**, a delicious and fragrant breath perfume, and all who are awarded a Fountain Pen we require to distribute for us among friends **25 Sample Packages.** In order that these may not be received by unappreciative people, we require you to collect **5 cents** for each sample, and as this is to advertise, we send a **PRIZE TICKET FREE** with every package, which entitles each purchaser to a handsome piece of jewellery, which will not cost less than the Breath Perfume. After distributing the 25 Packages and Prize Tickets, you return our **$1.25,** thus fulfilling your agreement. We then give you for this service, **free,** and in addition to the Fountain Pen awarded you in the first place, a **Solid Gold Shell Ring,** beautifully engraved, and all who answer this within three days from when seen first, we send with ring, ALSO **free, a Simulative Diamond, Ruby and Saphire Stick Pin.**



To many this unparalleled offer may seem impracticable. To such we say it is certainly worth investigating. The risk is nothing. **We ask none of your money.** We are liberal enough to offer inducements to stimulate our industries never attempted by any similar firm, and we simply ask you to interpret our Puzzle and **Send your Address.** We award you the **Fountain Pen** and send, postage paid, 25 Sample Packages of Breath Perfume. Distribute them as instructed, and we give you also the **Solid Gold Shell Ring and Pin.** Nothing could be more fair. Persons alive to their own interests should avail themselves of this great offer at once.



NATIONAL SUPPLY CO., 46, 48 & 50 West Larned St., DETROIT, MICH. MENTION THIS PAPER.

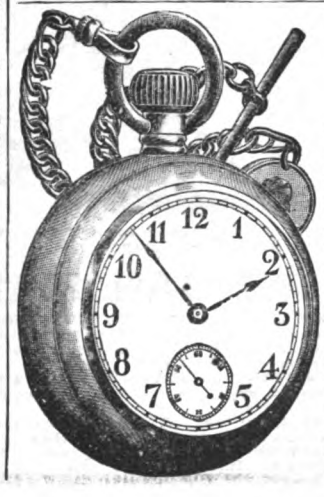
$1,000 IN CASH PRIZES

By your Fruits you shall be Rewarded.

TOPARIC	CHEAP
PAGER	POUTALCANE
NUQICE	REAP
PLEAP	LEMONTERAW
LUMP	ANNABA

We will divide **One Thousand Dollars** among those who arrange correctly these ten groups of letters into the names of **Ten Well Known Fruits.** For example: TOPARIC is APRICOT Can you solve the rest. If so you will get your share of One Thousand Dollars, payable Dec. 30, '99. For instance, if ten correct answers are received each receives One Hundred Dollars. If one hundred correct answers are received each receives Ten Dollars, and so on. This is the only fair and square way of awarding prizes as the entire amount (One Thousand Dollars) is sufficient to pay everyone well for their brain work.

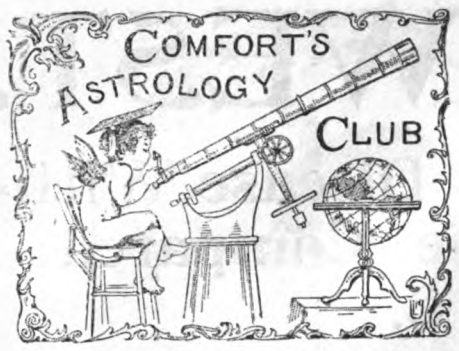
NO MONEY OR CONDITIONS ASKED. We do not ask a penny in this fair and square contest as we have nothing to sell, only wish to introduce our magazine into new homes and know that by awarding One Thousand Dollars in cash prizes it will advertise us. Our magazine is long established and full of interesting reading and is published by women for women and the home circle. Although unsuccessful before, this time you may win a fortune. The money will positively be given away and you can succeed with a little study and no expense. Write immediately, distance makes no difference. We will send you cash award check if correct by return mail. Address **WOMEN'S CO-OPERATIVE ASSOCIATION. New York City.**



WE GIVE THIS WATCH

FOR A CLUB OF 4.

Thirty Minutes is a short time, but many have earned one of these watches in less time than that. It is one of the very best watches for time ever offered to our readers at no matter what the price asked for it. We know, of course, there are watches that cost more money, because they are in gold or silver cases, but they will not keep any better time, simply because they cannot. This watch keeps not perfect time, we never saw the watch that did, but it keeps as near perfect time as watches usually do. We have such faith in this watch as a timekeeper that we send with every one a guarantee just as binding as that given with any watch, no matter what make. We are willing to give you this watch if you will do us a slight service, which you can easily do in an hour. We wish to increase our subscription list, and we want the assistance of every reader of this paper to that end. We do not want you to do it for nothing, we will reward you for it. You can easily secure this valuable watch if you get four subscribers to this paper, at our special subscription price of 25 cents a year each. Do this, sending us $1.00, with the names of four subscribers to this paper, and we will send our paper to each subscriber for one year, and we will send you the watch to reward you for your efforts in our behalf. Start out now and see what you can do. Remember we guarantee every watch. If you get five subscribers and send us $1.25 for the same we will also send you a nice chain. Address **COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.**



CONDUCTED BY REGULUS.



WINTER beigns when the Sun reaches his greatest southern declination, as he passes into the sign Capricorn. This occurs this year at about 12 minutes before 8 o'clock in the evening of the 21st day of December, when the last degree of the sign Aries will be on the midheaven and the 10th degree of the sign Leo will be rising in the east. Neptune will be the only heavenly body of the Solar System that will be above the Earth, though the Moon will make its appearance above the eastern horizon soon after 9 o'clock of the same evening. The figure erected for the time at Washington, the seat of government, shows Mercury, Herschel, Saturn, the Sun and Mars all within the bounds of the 5th house; Jupiter will be in the 4th; Venus in the 6th; the Moon on the cusp of 2nd, and Neptune in the 11th house.

The sun is ruler of the scheme and is in trine with the Moon, but besieged by the malefics Saturn and Mars in the 5th near the cusp of the 6th house; which indicates unusual prevalence of diseases involving the lungs and liver; cold will be the primary cause of diseases and mortality will be greater than usual from pneumonia, consumption, typhoid fever, gout and rheumatism. Unusual precautions should be taken in these directions. The malefics all in the 5th house does not promise favorably for hotels, theaters, and public schools. Indeed, some serious catastrophe involving loss of human life and injury to persons from fire or panic is apprehended, and school authorities and parties engaged in catering to public entertainment should be particularly guarded in care of those temporarily under their charge. Some bad eruptive trouble among children is likely and violent disorder or riot in northwestern sections or among the Indian tribes. The Executive authorities are likely to be kept busy in northwestern regions of the country where clash of arms is threatened over international questions. The favorable aspects of the Moon with the Sun, Saturn, and Mars and all with the Midheaven of the figure, with Jupiter angular gives very favorable indications for progress and growth of the Nation and her importance among the Nations of the world. Two Eclipses fall within the limits of the month of December, an annual eclipse of the Sun on the 2nd and a partial eclipse of the Moon on the 16th of the month. The eclipse of the Sun is not visible in this country, but is to be seen in the south polar region and in New Zealand and Southern Australia; indicative of some unusual physical phenomena and changes with disturbances of a political nature. It falls in the sign Sagittarius and near to the malefics in the 5th and 6th house, and in the sign ruling Spain and Hungary; and troubles in those countries continue to come. The partial eclipse of the Moon on the 16th is visible in the United States and generally in both America, Europe, Asia and Africa. The portents of these eclipses falling so near the congress of so many of the heavenly bodies indicates marked physical and political changes in the world at large, both as to rulers and governments. All of the figures emphasize the suggestions already given as to the classes of diseases to be guarded against and as to schools, hotels and theaters.

CELESTIAL CALENDAR FOR DECEMBER, 1899.

DECEMBER. 1—Friday. Begin early and improve every moment of this day, particularly for money ventures; buy goods for trade and deal with officers of large corporations, judges, and those engaged in the ecclesiastical callings; seek money accommodations, adjust accounts, and deal with persons of wealth and station.

2—Saturday. This day has but little to recommend it and the pursuit of routine matters only is recommended.

3—Sunday. The first two-thirds of this day are peculiarly adapted for intellectual engagements and for converse with the philosopher and mathematician; the late afternoon and evening are forbidding and caution is given that strife and contention be studiously avoided; extra care should be had in handling inflammables and explosives for fires and explosions are likely to be more numerous and destructive than usual in these passing days; look out also for hurts from animals and machinery.

4—Monday. The middle hours of the day are the best, particularly for literary labors and dealings with persons in such callings; also with artists, musicians, dramatists and in commercial enterprises concerned with the artistic or decorative in life.

5—Tuesday. Urge all affairs of an honorable nature; have money dealings, consult lawyers, judges, clergymen, bankers, and persons of wealth or who are employed about monied institutions.

6—Wednesday. Push business to the utmost on this day with eccentric characters and with government officers in the afternoon when also change residence and travel. The time is quite unfavorable for persons born about the 15th of March or June or 18th of September or December, of past years, and the majority of such persons, if of mature age, are now in the midst of trying influences and will seem to be baffled in nearly all their undertakings; they should be particularly careful in these winter weeks of their health, avoiding exposure to inclement weather as much as possible and seeing that coughs and colds are not neglected. Many of these are in the midst of strife or litigation and are cautioned against rashness in any of their acts; they should take care that they are not injured physically through their own carelessness.

7—Thursday. Choose the early hours for literary pursuits and mental labors; do important corespondence, and push thy business; make written applications for favor from officers of state and persons in authority; engage servants in the forenoon and deal with printers, booksellers, and intellectual people.

8—Friday. Usurers have a day of profit and advantage, and thou shouldst be wary with thy purse, being sure not to buy goods for any speculative venture; have care in extending credit and see that money is not lost through carelessness.

9—Saturday. Defer important correspondence and avoid business with officers of the government or persons in authority; do not execute any contract, nor travel unnecessarily.

10—Sunday. Bridle your tongue during the forenoon hours lest quarrels come; the mind at this time will specially incline towards the curious in science, art, and mechanism and ingenious, new and unusual ideas are born and peculiar doctrines become attractive; give preference to the afternoon for all mental efforts and for engagements in connection with the world of letters.

11—Monday. Be in no haste to begin any of the elegant pursuits in the morning hours when matters of taste are not favored; see that the inclinations are not extravagant and keep the expenditures under close scrutiny; the mind conceives peculiar and unusual ideas, notions, whims, and inventive capabilities are quickened; the latter part of the day is best for dealing with judges and officers of rank.

12—Tuesday. Choose this day for transactions concerning real estate; deal with the contractor, plumber, ship-builder, miner, machinist, manufacturer, chemist and cattletrader; inaugurate new business connected with machinery or in the nature of manufacture or construction, masonry, excavation, etc.

13—Wednesday. The afternoon is the best part of this day, especially for literary labors or engagements, matters of account or collections, and for commercial contracts pertaining to fancy goods, dress materials, jewelry and all articles of adornment; seek pleasure from the musical or dramatic entertainment in the evening.

14—Thursday. Do not purchase anything for profit on this day and have care that extravagant inclinations are held well in check.

15—Friday. This day is evil and little if any prosperity is likely to attend important undertakings now begun; it is better to save the energies at this time letting the day pass as best it may and resting quietly until a more opportune time; avoid landlords and make no contract with laboring classes.

16—Saturday. *Partial Eclipse of the Moon.* Conditions are quite unfavorable for any move of an initiative character, especially if concerned with houses or lands; seek no favor from thine employer or from persons in authority. The time is unfavorable for persons born about the 25th of February, 28th of May, 30th of August, or 28th of November of past years, as they are likely at this time to have some mental anxiety over writings, contracts, or matters of account or have nervous or mental excitement or baffling annoyances in their affairs. On the other hand, most of those born about the 26th of January, 27th of March, 29th of July or September, of past years, are likely to be having more profitable and agreeable correspondence, effect more satisfactory business arrangements or contracts, and should improve the time for beginning studies or making important intellectual engagements.

17—Sunday. Seek nothing but rest and quiet during all of this day though the evening hours are to be preferred over the other parts of the day.

18—Monday. A fair day, though it cannot be recommended for the beginning of any very important undertaking; the elegant pursuits are particularly opposed; do not purchase any articles of dress or decoration and be not surprised if little progress is made in any artistic pursuits.

19—Tuesday. Improve every moment of this day; the merchant, traveller and all engaged in monetary affairs, banking, or in the literary pursuits are favored on this day; buy goods for trade; make application to officers of large corporations or government officials for favors; travel and change residence.

20—Wednesday. Peculiarly appropriate during the forenoon hours for engagements pertaining to patents, trade-marks, or any kind of patented wares; urge the literary pursuits early in the day.

21—Thursday. An excellent day; bargain for houses and lands, make contracts for their improvement and deal with aged persons and the agricultural classes.

22—Friday. Be early astir for urging the chemical and mechanical pursuits and dealings in metals and machinery; consult thy dentist; travel; and trade in cattle, hardware and cutlery; the evening is adverse for literary work and mental processes; correspondence is best postponed.

23—Saturday. Urge all undertakings of a scientific, literary or artistic nature and press all general business.

24—Sunday. The day after the morning abounds in benevolence, being especially conducive to religious fervor and inviting communion with the poet, musician and artist and giving special appreciation of the beautiful in religion, nature, and art.

25—Monday. *Christmas.* Be not impatient in the morning, and as the forenoon advances be active in all literary matters or in removal or travel.

26—Tuesday. Consult and ask favors of aged persons; deal in houses and lands and the produce therefrom and make contracts with builders, masons, miners, farmers, plumbers, and persons generally in the laborious callings.

27—Wednesday. The elegant and artistic pursuits are not favored in the morning, when no purchases of wearing apparel or artistic goods will be satisfactory; seek favor or promotion from public officers or those in authority during the middle hours of the day.

28—Thursday. The forenoon of this day especially encourages all mechanical and chemical pursuits also dealings with cutlers, tailors, policemen, military men, surgeons, and all workers and dealers in glass or metals; as the day advances let every energy be devoted to the prosecution of literary work; make engagements with printers, or publishers; execute contracts; do most important correspondence and begin thy journeyings.

29—Friday. Continue thine efforts of yesterday with unabated zeal, particularly during the forenoon; purchase goods for trade and deal with clothiers, wool-dealers, judges, counsellors, and all persons in the elegant pursuits.

30—Saturday. Give the bulk of thine energies to the pursuit of thy literary engagements; deal with printers, booksellers, and mathematicians.

31—Sunday. The year closes with a very evil day when no matter of importance should be inaugurated in connection with church affairs.

To Cure Piles and Female Diseases.

I have discovered a positive cure for all female diseases and the piles. It never fails to cure any of the various diseases peculiar to women, such as leucorrhœa, displacements, ulceration, granulation, etc., or the piles from any cause or in either sex. I will gladly mail a box of this wonderful medicine free to every sufferer. Mrs. C. B. MILLER, Box 106, Kokomo, Ind.

LADIES A 50c BOX FREE

That every invalid lady may learn how quickly she may be cured of uterine troubles, displacements, painful periods, leucorrhœa, etc. I promise to send by return mail in sealed plain package to any lady who will write for it a 50 cent box of a simple home remedy that cured me after years of suffering. There is no charge whatever. Write to-day for yourself or for your friend.

Address Mrs. L. Hudnut, 48 A, South Bend, Ind.

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a plain, common sense book on health, disease, love, marriage and parentage, by a popular medical authority of N. Y. It has 350 well illustrated pages about what all men and women need to know. We will mail it on approval for 5 cents postage to any responsible person who will either mail back the book or 20 cents. Or, 20 cents with order gets it.

M. HILL PUB. CO., 129 E. 28th St., New York.

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I have found a positive cure for drunkenness. Can be given secretly. Will gladly tell you what it is. MRS. MAY HAWKINS, L. U. 131, Grand Rapids, Mich.

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Before Prof. Jules Laborde, the famous French Specialist, brought his discovery, **CALTHOS**, to the knowledge of the world, the best physicians denied that any medicine known to science could restore the vital forces of men, if once lost through overwork, abuse, or excesses. **CALTHOS** is the greatest sensation in the medical world today. The cures made by **CALTHOS** (many of the cases of years standing) have attracted the attention of medical men everywhere. The National Medical Board has recommended the remedy for use in Insane Asylums, where, as well known, a majority of the male inmates are victims of lost manhood in its most terrible form, brought on by abuses and youthful error. In Europe the remedy is endorsed by the French and German governments, and is used as a specific in the great standing armies of those countries, and generally in all the famous Sanitariums and Retreats of the Old World.

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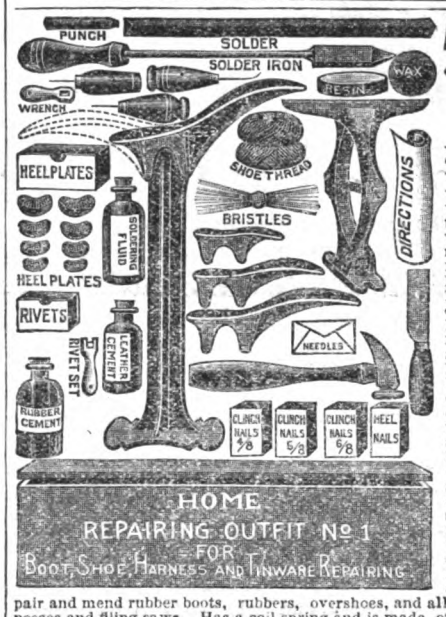
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We will give $200.00 in Cash to anyone who can arrange these eight groups of letters into the names of eight **well-known Forest Trees.** Each group of letters when properly arranged, spells the name of a **common forest tree** which is used by carpenters and builders. You can only use each letter in its own group and only as many times as it appears in its own group. Altogether there are **eight groups** and **eight correct names,** so if you can arrange the letters into the eight names of the trees, we will give you **$200.00 in Cash.** If more than one person sends the correct answers the money will be **equally divided** and will be **paid Dec. 15, 1899.** Understand, however, that we have **one condition,** which may take a few hours of your time, and we will write you about it when you send your answer. **How Can We Do This?** We make this **liberal offer** so that you may become **interested in our business. We want you to work for us** in your own locality, and propose to **make it an object** for you to do so. Distance from us does not make any difference. **Try and Win, but do not send any money** with your answer. It looks like an easy task, yet it is a test of skill. We make this generous offer to every reader of this paper who can solve this puzzle. It is straight business with us. As soon as we get your answer, we will notify you if the names you send are the correct ones, and will also inform you fully of the work which we wish done that will **enable you to win.** Write at once, **giving your full name and address plainly.**

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GREATEST MONEY MAKER AND MONEY SAVER EVER SEEN: NEEDED IN EVERY HOUSE IN THE WORLD.

Hundreds of dollars are wasted every year in paying for repairs which could be done by you just as well as by the person you hire. "Yes," you will say, "I could do this work if I only had the tools." You have to hire the plumber or cobbler and pay him for his time while you stand around and look on, watching him do the work which you could do as well as he, but it is always that you have no tools. We have put together the best kit of tools for repairing which was ever seen, and we will sell the entire outfit for less than half the money for which you could buy it at any store. The outfit consists of **forty-four first-class tools,** as shown in the above cut, viz: **1 iron last for men's work; 1 iron last for boy's work; 1 iron last for women's work; 1 iron last for children's work; 1 iron stand for lasts; 1 shoehammer; 1 shoeknife; 1 peg awl handle; 1 peg awl; 1 wrench for peg awl handle; 1 sewing awl handle; 1 sewing awl; 1 stabbing awl handle; 1 stabbing awl; 1 bottle leather cement; 1 bottle rubber cement; 1 bunch bristles; 1 ball shoe thread; 1 ball shoe wax; 1 pkg. clinch nails, 4-8 in.; 1 pkg clinch nails 5-8 in.; 1 pkg. clinch nails, 6-8 in.; 1 pkg. heel nails; 4 prs. heel plates, assorted sizes; 6 harness needles; 1 harness and saw clamp; 1 box slotted rivets, assorted sizes; 1 rivet set for same; 1 harness and belt punch; 1 soldering iron, ready for use; 1 handle for same; 1 bar solder; 1 bar resin; 1 bottle soldering fluid; 1 copy directions for halfsoling, etc., 1 copy directions for soldering** all securely packed, together with directions for use, in a neat case. These tools bought at a hardware store separately **would cost between $7.00 and $9.00.** You can repair boots and shoes, tap and heel them, mend your harness or make a new one, mend all kinds of tinware, repair pumps, plumbing and similar work, and do all kinds of leather work about carriages, etc., as well as repair and mend rubber boots, rubbers, overshoes, and all kinds of rubber made articles. The clamp is used for mending harnesses and filing saws. Has a coil spring and is made of iron. **You can easily save five times the cost of this outfit in six months** and make a heap of money doing little repairs for your neighbors and others. "A stitch in time saves nine," and if you have these tools in your house you can make repairs and save a great deal of money which you would pay if you let a break go or hired a man to do your repairing work for you. Every one of these tools are **full sized, practical, neat** and **cheap.** It is the only complete outfit in the market and thousands have been sold in past years for $3.00 when the outfit contained but about half as many smaller articles to people living in the country and small towns as well as in the city. This repairing outfit, weighing 20 lbs. will be sent by freight complete as above described for **only $1.62** which includes a 6 months' trial subscription to this paper.

GREAT PREMIUM OFFER.—If you will get up a club of 7 yearly trial subscribers to this paper at the special price of 25 cents each, we will send you one of these repairing outfits as a present to you.

COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

THE WIZARD of the WEST.

Prof. S. A. Weltmer of Nevada, Mo., Who Heals Disease Without the Aid of Drugs or the Surgeon's Knife, Compared With the Healing God of 292 B. C.

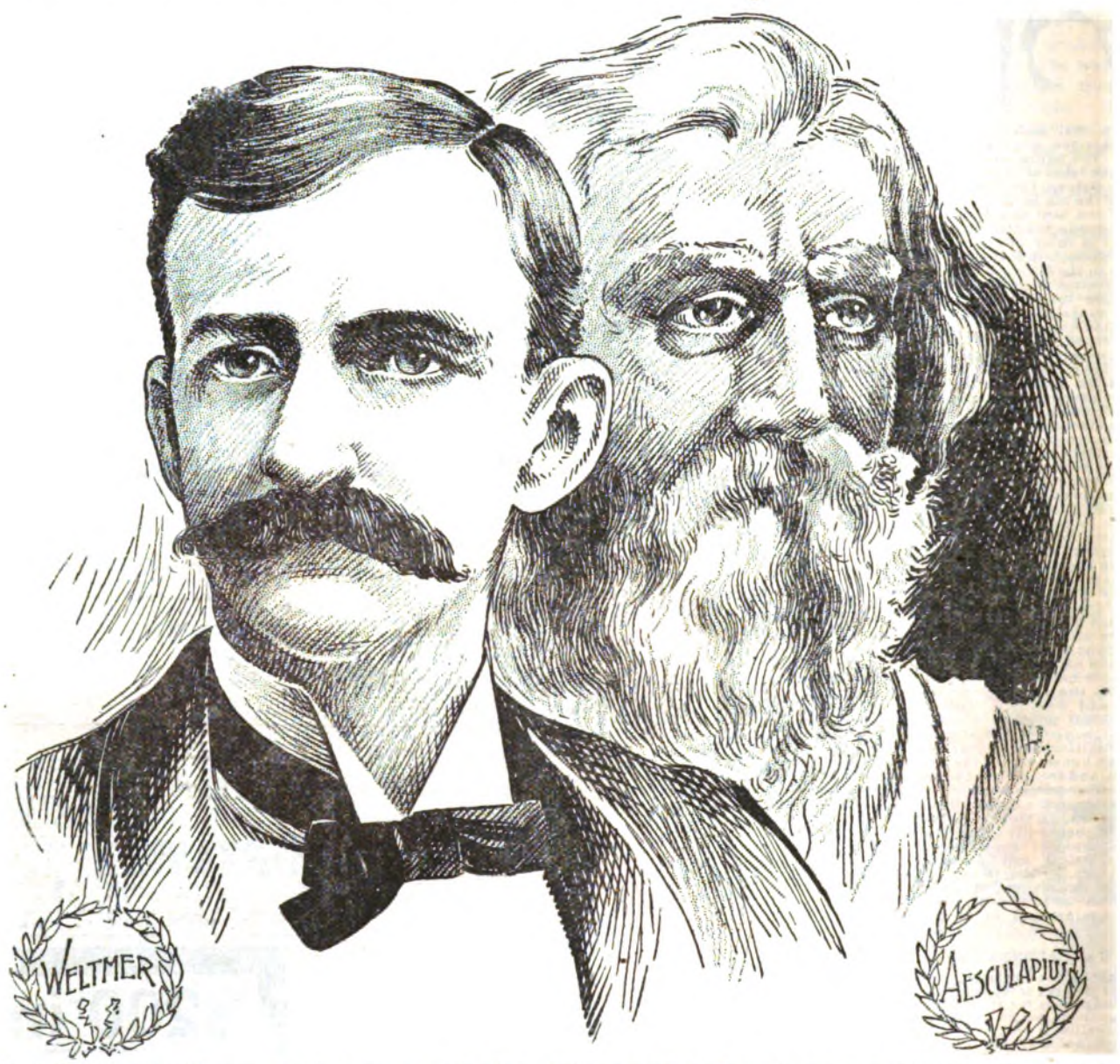
By the Absent Method Weltmerism Annihilates Space and Makes it Unnecessary To Go To Nevada for Treatment.

THIS WONDERFUL DISCOVERY REVEALED TO ALL.

The phenomenal cures made by Prof. S. A. Weltmer of Nevada, Mo., have been so astounding and wonderful as to attract the attention of scientists and physicians throughout the world. An eminent physician who has won the esteem of the medical profession by his history of Aesculapius, the healing god, known in B. C. 292, says: While it is true that we are told that Aesculapius became so efficient in the healing art that he actually succeeded so far as to restore the dead to life, and in this way offended Pluto who complained to Jove of the innovation and Jove slew Aesculapius by a flash of lightning, still in making my researches up to the present day, I can say without hesitation that Prof. S. A. Weltmer, the great Nevada, Mo., Scientist, who originated the Method of Magnetic Healing, known as Weltmerism, has done more for science and humanity than did Aesculapius, for this wonderful man has followed the precept of the Living Christ. In this I do not mean to be sacreligious but to emphasize my statement by saying that the Great Nevada (Mo.) Scientist is following in the path made by Him who was born at Bethlehem, and healing without drugs or the surgeon's knife. Again, Prof. S. A. Weltmer is more generous to humanity than was Aesculapius, for the latter had a few followers, known as the Asclepiades, who were bound by an oath not to divulge the secret of the healing art, while any one placing themselves in communication with Prof. S. A. Weltmer can receive instructions from him, for he is most anxious to teach his art to others, that the great method, of which he is the founder, may live and continue to bring the afflicted to health and happiness, even after he has passed to the great majority. Weltmerism has been so perfected that in its wide scope it reaches all classes of people, for this wonderful curative power annihilates space and cures patients at a distance just as readily as it does those who go to Nevada for treatment. Thousands of testimonials from worthy people in every walk of life, are in possession of the American School of Magnetic Healing of Nevada, Mo., and the seeming miracles performed by this great scientist are so wonderful that they would be doubted by the skeptical ones if the proofs were not so positive. Through the courtesy of Prof. J. H. Kelly, the eminent co-laborer of Prof. Weltmer, we are permitted to publish a few of the thousands of testimonials in his possession:

Mrs. Lucy A. Shook, wife of Rev. H. C. Shook, Minister of the M. E. Church, Bucklin, Mo., suffered for five years with constipation, indigestion and poor circulation. She was under the constant treatment of medical doctors, but continued to grow worse, until finally she decided to go to Nevada, Mo., for treatment. One physician, with fifty years' practice, told her she would never reach the Weltmer Institute alive. Her husband strongly opposed her taking the Weltmer Treatment, as he had no faith in it, but finally consented as he did not want to oppose his wife's wishes longer, as he believed her a dying woman. Mrs. Shook was brought to the Weltmer Institute on a stretcher; she took six treatments and is now a well woman. Rev. Shook left Nevada with his wife most enthusiastic over her cure and is now a firm believer of Weltmerism.

Hon. Press Irons, Mayor of Nevada, was afflicted with kidney and bladder troubles for ten years and could find no relief in the usual remedies. In one week he was completely restored by Prof. Weltmer.



Mr. John S. Small, Colfax, Ill., was deaf in his left ear for seven years; could not hear a watch tick when placed against this ear. Was permanently cured in three days by Prof. Weltmer. Mr. L. W. Rains, a wealthy lumberman of Hornbeak, Tenn., suffered constantly with kidney trouble for twenty years; also with constipation and prostatic troubles. Exhausted the best medical skill, but to no relief. He fortunately heard of Prof. Weltmer, and was soon restored to perfect health, and now says this treatment will cure anybody. Mrs. M. E. Hawkins, Louisburg, Kan., was afflicted twenty years with prolapsus and enlargement of the womb, indigestion and perpetual headache. Tried everything that offered relief and gave up in despair. Heard of Prof. Weltmer, took his treatment one week and was permanently restored to health.

Prof. Weltmer also possesses the remarkable ability to cure people at a distance, and hundreds have been restored in this way. Mr. G. W. Hightower, Tiff City, Mo., was a total wreck, having suffered many years with stomach, liver and kindred troubles. Tried everything without relief. Fully restored by Prof. Weltmer's Absent Method.

Mrs. Minnie Porter, Texarkana, Tex., was afflicted for eighteen months with kidney and other diseases, and for twelve months unable to get out of her bed. Was expected to die at any time. Permanently cured by Prof. Weltmer's Absent Method and has gained sixty-five pounds.

Mrs. Lavisa Dudley, Barry, Ill., suffered for thirty years with neuralgia and stomach troubles. Nothing but morphine would relieve her. Permanently cured in a few weeks by the Absent Method of Treatment.

Mrs. M. A. Devault, Defiance, O., was afflicted five years with dropsy, stomach and kidney troubles. Could get no relief from medical science. Was fully restored by Absent Treatment in ten days.

Mrs. M. M. Walker, Poca, W. Va., suffered with eczema, indigestion and female troubles. Dozens of doctors failed to give any relief. She was permanently restored by Prof. Weltmer's Absent Method in two months.

Mrs. Jennie L. Linch, Lakeview, Mo., was for two years afflicted with ulceration of the womb, heart and stomach troubles and general debility; was reduced to a mere skeleton. After taking gallons of obnoxious medicines without relief, she tried the Weltmer Absent Treatment. In less than thirty days she was entirely relieved and gained fifteen pounds.

The Weltmer Method has cured thousands of helpless invalids. In fact, the cures have been so marvelous it can be said there is no disease known that it will not reach. The Absent Method by curing at a distance makes it possible for Prof. Weltmer to benefit all classes of people. There can be but one logical reason given for the grand work done by Weltmerism and that is, it has a greater grasp upon scientific truth than any other method known to mankind.

Any of the readers of the COMFORT writing to Prof. S. A. Weltmer, Nevada, Mo., will receive free of charge the MAGNETIC JOURNAL, a 40-page illustrated magazine and a list of remarkable cures positively proving the wonderful power of this method over all diseases.



PROF. J. H. KELLY.

Secretary American School of Magnetic Healing.

LEARN THIS NOBLE PROFESSION.

The American School of Magnetic Healing is organized under the laws of the State of Missouri, and is a chartered institute founded for the purpose of teaching the new method of Magnetic Healing, known as Weltmerism. Prof. Weltmer is the president and Prof. Kelly the secretary and treasurer of this school. The method perfected by the American School of Magnetic Healing is so complete in all its details that the students become as efficient as Prof. Weltmer himself in this art to cure in ten days. This noble profession, which is taught either by mail or personal instruction, by its application cures and benefits the delicate and nervous woman of all the ailments known to woman; the overworked man, whose very manhood and vigor are lost by exertions and indiscretions; the sickly child; in fact it reaches all diseases known to the human frame and gives the possessor of this wonderful art a power that never was held by man until Weltmerism became a fact. You can become perfect in Magnetic Healing; no argument can be put forth to the contrary. It is a power born in every human, just like the faculty of speech, and only needs to be brought to the surface. The hundreds of successful students of the American School of Magnetic Healing, who are now healing the sick in every portion of the country, are positive proof that any one who desires can learn this profession, and any one who learns can practice it. There is no nobler or better paying profession. Prof. Weltmer finds it impossible to attend to the enormous demands made upon him to cure; he therefore wishes others to take up his profession, so that he may call upon them to assist him in his noble work. He also wishes to perpetuate Weltmerism, as he is positive that in the near future it will revolutionize the art to cure. He also knows the only way to perpetuate it and make Weltmerism the standard for all times to come is to teach his profession to others.

The following letter is one of the many in the possession of the American School of Magnetic Healing.

Prof. J. H. Kelly, Sec'y., Nevada, Mo.:

Dear Sir:—Your mail course in Magnetic Healing was received some months ago. After reading some, I caught your idea and at once proceeded to put it into practice, and found I could accomplish all and even more than I anticipated. I have never failed to get immediate results in all cases treated, and I have made a number of cures in cases that have been given up by the best of our physicians as incurable. I expect to devote my entire time to this work, but should I never use it outside of myself or family, would consider it the best investment I ever made.

J. T. IGLEHART, Meridian, Miss.

Thousands of letters in possession of Prof. Kelly, the secretary, are abundant proof that any one can learn this grand profession in ten days. For full instructions free, address

PROF. J. H. KELLY, Sec'y., Nevada, Mo.

DECEMBER 1899

PRICE 5 CENTS

VOL XII NO 2 MN 134

COMFORT

THE KEY TO A MILLION AND A QUARTER HOMES

NEW YORK AUGUSTA, MAINE. BOSTON

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SUN.	MON.	TUE.	WED.	THU.	FRI.	SAT.
New Moon 2d	First Quarter 9th	Full Moon 16th	Last Quarter 24th		1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24/31	25	26	27	28	29	30



Telling one of Comfort's Prize Stories.

PRIZE STORIES.

The following conditions govern the awarding of cash prizes for Nutshell Stories, and the manuscripts of such writers only as have complied with all these requirements will receive consideration.

All the necessary particulars being here clearly set forth, it will be useless for anyone to seek further information or personal favors by addressing the editor, as such letters cannot be answered.

1. *Only persons who are regular paid up yearly subscribers to "Comfort" and who send with every manuscript at least two yearly subscribers (together with 50 cents to pay for each subscriber so sent) may compete for the prizes.*

2. *All contributions must have the number of words they contain plainly noted thereon in addition to the writer's full name and address with nom de plume if desired; must be written on one side of the paper only, enclosed in the same envelope as the letter and remittance for new subscriptions, and addressed to* EDITOR NUTSHELL STORY CLUB *care of* COMFORT, AUGUSTA, MAINE.

3. *All stories must be* strictly original *with the contributors, and must not have appeared in print before. Competitors may write upon any subject, whether based upon fact, fancy or fiction—of adventure, love, war, peace; of city or country life, or of experiences on land or sea—but no story must contain more than* 2,000 *or less than* 1,000 *words.*

4. NO MANUSCRIPT WILL BE RETURNED UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES AND COMPETITORS SHOULD THEREFORE RETAIN A COPY OF WHAT THEY SEND.

5. *From* $5 *to* $20 *will be paid for stories, and remittances will be sent by check as soon as awards have been made.*

No premiums will be given for subscriptions sent in under this Short Story Prize Offer.

The Publishers of "Comfort" reserve the right to purchase at their established rates any stories submitted under the foregoing offer, which failed to secure a prize.

☞ *Writers who hear nothing of their manuscript may at the end of* 90 *days after submitting them to "Comfort" feel at liberty to offer their stories for sale elsewhere.*

PRIZE WINNERS FOR DECEMBER.

Howard M. Strong, First Prize.
Sarah E. Gannett, Second Prize.
Louise J. Strong, Third Prize.
Helen M. Winslow, Fourth Prize.
"Rupe Barnby," Fifth Prize.

HAND AND FOOT.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY HOWARD MARCUS STRONG.

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DESPITE the noise of the street I could hear the rumble of the great presses in the basements. The smell of fresh ink that reached my nostrils was sweeter than incense. This was Newspaper Row, and these were the monsters I had come to conquer. When hunger finally urged its claim I turned into the nearest restaurant and ordered my first meal in the city.

Although so taken up with my own thoughts I was soon conscious of being steadily regarded by a white-faced young man across the table. He had finished eating but still sat in his chair, nervously picking to pieces a menu card.

"Pardon me," he said, suddenly leaning forward, "are you a stranger in the city?"

I merely nodded assent.

"It's not very long since I came to the city," he continued, "and it won't be long till I leave it. I have been very lonely."

There was something so pathetic in his tone that my reserve was immediately cast aside.

"You are the first person I have talked to for days," he sighed. "There was no one to go to for advice or encouragement. Oh, I am sick of it all! Have you any friends in this awful maelstrom?"

"None," I replied; "I am a country boy, and I have come to the city to make my start as a journalist."

The young man regarded me pityingly for a moment and then broke into a harsh laugh. While he laughed the tears welled up in his eyes.

"Forgive me!" he cried; "I am all unstrung. I was laughing at my own failure. God grant that you may meet with better luck. Don't you understand? My ambition was the same as yours; but I have given up the struggle."

"And have you never met with any success?" I asked.

"Only once," he replied, with a faint smile, "and that was by chance. Last Saturday night my finances and the thermometer both registered exactly ten above zero. Like the night my prospects were black and cheerless. I had been the rounds of the papers and none of them needed any help or would take the time to look at my work. My clothing was thin and the east wind cut through me with every blast. I was weak with hunger and sick with disappointment. In the street where I room there is a little German bakeshop, and in the rear of the shop is one small table, where you can be served with baked beans in winter or ice cream in summer. I turned in there and expended ten cents—the last I had in the world.

"The door opened shortly after my entrance and a young woman came in hesitatingly. After a word with the old baker she came back to the table and seated herself opposite me. By her hollow eyes and poor clothing I judged that her circumstances were as desperate as mine. How I pitied her! Just as I was making up my mind to speak of the stormy night, the baker gave a frightened cry and let the bean-pot crash to the floor.

"'Mine Gott!' he roared, 'a hand—and in the beans! Ah, friends, do not eat of what I have set before you. I have discovered the hand of a man baked to a crisp with my beans!'

"The young woman turned very white, and I no longer had any appetite.

"'Look for yourselves!' the baker continued excitedly, holding up a brown hand on the prongs of his fork. 'This in the bean-pot where the fat pork should have been.'

"The sight was too much for the young woman; she fainted in her chair. The noise had alarmed the baker's wife and she came into the shop to learn the cause of the disturbance.

"'Take this young woman to your room,' I commanded. 'See, she has fainted and needs attention.'

"As the motherly old lady disappeared with the limp form of the girl in her arms, I turned to the baker.

"'You thick-headed fool!' I cried. 'Had you no better sense than to speak of it? Come, let us have a look at the baked hand.'

"The German leaned against the wall and gasped for breath, while his eyes almost started from their sockets. Reaching over the counter I took the fork from his trembling grasp and examined the impaled hand closely. The member was an artificial one. The composition had been shriveled and discolored by the heat, and was truly an unpleasant sight. It was some time before I could convince the baker of the truth of my discovery, and then he insisted that I should take the thing away with me and say nothing of the occurrence.

"I put the hand in my pocket and departed, but did not promise to keep the matter a secret for it had given me a new idea. Going to my room I wrote out an elaborately padded account of the incident, and the next morning succeeded in disposing of it to one of the papers. I have just now been celebrating the receipt of my check by indulging in a hearty meal. How I wish that the young woman could share it," he added. "I cannot get her out of my thoughts. Her face was beautiful to me. I have never had any affairs of the heart, but—" He stopped abruptly and rose from the table.

"Won't you tell me your name?" I said. "I would be glad to know you."

"My name is Unknown," he replied bitterly.

"But," I persisted, "unless you give me your address I will probably never meet you again."

"My address," he answered sadly, "is Obscurity Flats, top floor, back. You will never meet me again and for that reason I want to leave a little remembrance with you. It was given to me by an old black man when I was a boy down in Virginia."

Before I could offer a word of protest he forced a gray rabbit foot into my hand and hurried away.

Two days later I saw in the paper an account of a suicide. A young man, name unknown, had ended his life at a miserable lodging house in a destitute quarter of the city. The description of his appearance was not very lucid, but I imagined that it was my friend of the restaurant. The idea grew on me until it reached the stage of a settled conviction. The paper stated that he would be buried by the city, and knowing that the poor fellow was friendless, I felt constrained to attend the sad funeral.

Calling a cab and giving the proper direction I was driven to the dreary tenement where he had given up the struggle for existence. As I stepped to the pavement a small avalanche of snow slid from the roof of the building and hurled me to the ground. I had not been the only victim, for, as I regained my feet the cabman was lifting a young woman from the snow.

"I am not hurt," she replied to my inquiries, and then moved on, shivering with the cold.

In answer to my knock a woman informed me that they had just left with the poor young man—they were hardly around the corner yet, she thought. Again I entered the cab, after instructing the driver to overtake the meager cortege and follow it to the place of burial.

With the exception of a few officials I was the only mourner; but my grief was sincere for I could not help but wonder if this would be the end of all my own hopes and ambitions. When the services were over one of the men asked leave to return with me in the cab. We were scarcely seated when he began to overwhelm me with congratulations.

"No, no," he said, "of course you can't imagine what it's all about—your surprise is natural—good news, though, I assure you. Fifty thousand doesn't come to every man so easily. Hard to believe, isn't it?"

"Sir," I said, "you are mistaken in the person. You do not know me."

"Good," he chuckled. "O very good, on my word! Lucky fellow! My fortunate young sir, old Glenn was undoubtedly eccentric, miserly; he had no friends—refused to recognize his own relatives—strange creature. He made his money baking beans and peddling them about—minus one hand from birth—lost his artificial one once in a pot of beans. You may have read of it in the paper—good story—well written up. But he had one soft spot, did Glenn. 'If by chance there be one who voluntarily attends my funeral,' so reads the will, 'to him I give and bequeath the sum of fifty thousand dollars, this being the entire amount of my savings. And if none such appears, the said sum is to be converted into bank bills and publicly burned.' It's all rock-bound, sir, for I drew up his last will and testament myself—V. Crubleigh, attorney-at-law."

From sheer surprise I remained speechless. The coachman must have followed the wrong funeral—and with what results!

"I cannot think of it, Mr. Crubleigh," I said at length. "It is not rightfully mine."

"Bosh!" he cried. "O bosh! you have to take it—law awards it. I must have the will robated as soon as possible. Then if you choose to remember the humble instrument of your good fortune, by a modest gratuity, you will earn the everlasting gratitude of V. Crubleigh and family."

I was never fully convinced of the lawyer's truthfulness until the sum of fifty thousand dollars was finally placed to my credit at the bank. And by that time I was not in the least inclined to refuse the legacy. Having made Crubleigh happy, my next thought was of the young woman who had so concerned my friend of the restaurant. I determined to assist her if it lay within my power, and with that end in view, I advertised for the young woman that had been in the German bakeshop the night of the startling discovery.

The following day I received an answer by mail. I wrote to the address requesting a personal interview, and in the evening a man came to my room with a note. I was to go with him to where the young woman was staying. My guide was a kindly old German, and he finally acknowledged that he was the proprietor of the bakery. The person I wished to see was staying at his house—had been since the night she fainted.

The baker took me to a room directly over the shop, and there I was introduced to the young lady—Miss Laird. I immediately recognized her as the pedestrian that the cabman had rescued from the fall of snow on the day of the funeral. In a few words I detailed to her my strange fortune and the motive that had prompted me to come with an offer of assistance. During the recital her cheeks paled and flushed, and toward the last a broad smile played over her face.

"You are very kind," she said, when I had finished, "but you seem to be under the guidance of a strange fate. First of all, I will tell you that I am a niece of old Isaiah Glenn, whose fortune you now enjoy. I came to the city to study music, and hoped that my uncle would give me a little aid, but he would never recognize me as one of his kindred. The strangest thing, however, is that you thought Mr. Gordon had committed suicide; for that is who you met in the restaurant."

"And is he alive?," I exclaimed.

"Yes," she replied; "alive and in the next room. I will call him."

"So you had me dead and buried," said a voice at my side. It was the young man of the restaurant. "Well, I don't deny suicidal intent when I left you; but the same day I met Miss Laird, and now life has some very attractive prospects for me. You have certainly struck it rich—I confess to eavesdropping."

"Yes," I replied; "but the money shall all be turned over to Miss Laird without delay. It is rightfully hers." This heroic resolve had cost me a great effort; but few of us are proof against occasional attacks of better feelings.

"You will do nothing of the kind," said Miss Laird, suddenly entering the room. "I will not touch a cent of it. Only think, the money would have been destroyed if you had not carried out the strange conditions."

"I am determined," I said.

"And I am resolved," she persisted.

"Better compromise," suggested Gordon. "We all know the value of a dollar pretty accurately, and half of fifty thousand looks very large. Perhaps each of you could be satisfied with a part." And that is the way it was finally arranged.

"All our happiness has in some way been due to that baked hand," Miss Laird observed, as I was about to leave them for the evening. "It has brought all of us good luck."

"It was not the hand," I declared. "The rabbit foot was the real charm. And now I suppose it must revert to its original owner."

"Keep it," laughed Gordon. "I have secured a charm that is far more potent." And he must have spoken truly, for to-day he is a distinguished light in the journalistic firmament.

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The Lesson of the Christ Child.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY SARAH E. GANNETT.

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THIS story is not written by Dickens, neither is it a tale of the slums, but is a true account of my own experience—of my sin and the lesson taught me—and that I may profit by the wisdom I have gained is my daily prayer. That I may not fail of doing so I am now writing out, for my own use, the account of that bitterly unhappy time when I cared only for myself and my own pleasure.

I am the mother of two of the sweetest girls ever sent to brighten the life of a selfish woman. Once I did not think this of them, but imagined them to be the torment of my days, a constant hindrance to the life of ease which I wished to lead, and possessed of all the sins known to the Evil one. How could I have been so wicked, so unthankful! I only wonder that the dears have the least love remaining for me; but far from remembering past unkindness they are constantly hugging and kissing me "because we love you so."

I was a young, thoughtless girl when my husband married me, an only daughter who had always had her own sweet will and learned very little except what she chose. My home was in the country, and my mother was a farmer's wife, hard-working and far from strong, and during her frequent ill turns I was obliged, from necessity, to cook and look after the house and family; but, although in this way I acquired some knowledge of the duties of a house-mother, I cordially hated them, and when I married and had a house of my own to manage, I despised the work, and instead of taking interest and pride in keeping the house neat and tidy and serving to my husband dainty and well-cooked meals, I shirked all that I possibly could. My house was seldom swept or dusted; the stove never blacked unless Lawrence, who is the sweetest tempered, most patient man alive, did it for me. Beds often lay unmade all day that I might run in the streets, and roaches, spiders and ants lived unmolested in kitchen and pantry. The food—well, the less said of my muddy coffee, my sour bread and my burned meats the better. I do not do things in that way now.

By and by the baby came, and for a time I was proud of her and took pains that she should be sweet and clean and happy. Lawrence hired a woman to help me, too, so my work was lighter and house and food showed a marked improvement; but time passed on and another baby took up its abode with us, and then reverses came. Some competition between northern and southern cotton mills lowered the price of their goods and caused a consequent reduction in the wages of the workmen. Lawrence struggled on for a while, hoping the depression in business would be short, but was finally obliged to tell me that he could no longer afford to pay for help in the house. He was very good, although I did not see it then as I do now. He worked all the time he was at home trying to lighten my labors, and denied himself every luxury that he might furnish me with pleasures and try to

HEART DISEASE

Some Facts Regarding the Rapid Increase of Heart Trouble.

Heart trouble, at least among the Americans, is certainly increasing and while this may be largely due to the excitement and worry of American business life, it is more often the result of weak stomachs, of poor digestion.

Real organic disease is incurable; but not one case in a hundred of heart trouble is organic.

The close relation between heart trouble and poor digestion is because both organs are controlled by the same great nerves, the Sympathic and Pneumogastric.

In another way, also the heart is affected by the form of poor digestion which causes gas and fermentation from half digested food. There is a feeling of oppression and heaviness in the chest caused by pressure of the distended stomach on the heart and lungs, interfering with their action; hence arises palpitation and short breath.

Poor digestion also poisons the blood, making it thin and watery, which irritates and weakens the heart.

The most sensible treatment for heart trouble is to improve the digestion and to insure the prompt assimilation of food.

This can be done by the regular use after meals of some safe, pleasant and effective digestive preparation, like Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets, which may be found at most drug stores, and which contain valuable, harmless, digestive elements in a pleasant, convenient form.

It is safe to say that the regular persistent use of Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets at meal time will cure any form of stomach trouble except cancer of the stomach.

Full sized package of these tablets sold by druggists at 50 cents. Little book on stomach troubles mailed free. Address F. A. Stuart Co., Marshall, Mich.

CHICAGO HOUSEHOLD GUEST 50 cents a year. Sample copy free on application.

bring a smile to my gloomy face; but I would not be happy or contented. I was constantly fretting and scolding, and my house, the children and myself were dirty and ill-kept.

Thus time went on until Martha was seven years old and Elsie five. One evening in November, we all sat around the kitchen stove, the children playing with some bobbins which their father had brought them home, while he busied himself in making them a cart with bobbins for wheels, and I was trying to do the weekly mending by the light of a dirty, ill-smelling, coal-oil lamp. Little Martha had been sitting quietly for some time looking about her in a thoughtful way she often has, and suddenly she said, wistfully: "I wish we could sit in the sitting-room evenings, like they do at Jeannie Stewart's, and have a pretty lamp like theirs, and wear pretty dresses."

Lawrence glanced up, rather fearfully, I thought, and tried to hush the child, but she went on:

"Jeannie's mother is going to let her hang her stocking on Christmas eve, and have a tree Christmas morning, too. I wish we could have a Christmas tree, mother. We never had one, or hung our stocking, either."

"You can have a Christmas tree, fast enough, if you want one," I answered, grimly.

Lawrence glanced at me in surprise, and I went on:

"Just ask your father to cut you one and stick it up in the snow."

"But that won't be a Christmas tree, mother. It has to be in the house and have presents on it, Jeannie said," urged Martha, timidly.

"Well, if you think I am going to all that trouble for you young ones you are quite mistaken! and where do you suppose the money is coming from to buy the presents, I should like to know? No, you'll get no Christmas this year."

"But Mattie," said Lawrence, gently, seeing the bitter disappointment on the little faces, "suppose we let them hang their stockings this year; it is too bad for them to grow up and miss all the fun of Christmas. I can get some trifles to fill them that will not cost much, I am sure."

"Lawrence Dean," I broke in, furiously. "Haven't I said that I wouldn't be bothered with Christmas doings? I have cares enough already, and I won't have any Christmas hurra and clutter to look after. Now hear me! Martha and Elsie, you go to bed this minute. It's past your bedtime, and I've got a horrid cold coming on and am going to bed quickly as I can get there," and I sprang up and began my preparations for the night, scolding all the while.

The next morning my cold was bad, and the day after Lawrence got me a doctor and a nurse, and after that, for two or three weeks, I remember nothing but suffering and distress for breath. One night there came a change, and I heard them say that I could not last long. I did not care. I was too spent with suffering to care. I only knew that I was relieved from pain, and I lay in a dull stupor. Suddenly a light shone around me, and from its midst stood out the figure of a beautiful boy in shining white garments, with his serene blue eyes fixed upon me as I lay helpless before him. He spoke, and the sweet tones thrilled me like music.

"You are nearly through with your earthly life," he said. "Would you like, before you pass away from them, to see what will be the future life of those you are leaving?"

I gazed at him in astonished silence, and he continued:

"I am the Christ-Child, the anniversary of whose birth upon the earth you refuse to allow your little ones to celebrate. Come, see the effects of your training," and he laid his hand gently upon mine.

I arose, impelled by the power of his sweet presence, and followed him until we came to a great, glowing mirror. Here he paused and swept his hand over its surface.

"Look!" he said, quietly, and I gazed straight down into my own familiar kitchen. Lawrence and the children were sitting there, and a bright fire was burning in the polished stove, a nice supper was on the table, and everything was clean and tidy.

"Papa," I heard Elsie say, "it is *so* nice here! Jane does things better than mamma did papa."

Lawrence did not answer the child, but I saw him wince, and his hand and lip trembled.

"This is the memory which your children have of you," said the Christ-Child, sadly, as he passed his hand once more over the mirror. Again I looked.

Martha and Elsie were growing up now, hard, unlovely and unloving, with coarse faces and flashy clothing. A friend was trying to persuade them to give money and help at Christmas time to make a happy day for friendless children.

"No," they replied to her persuasion, "*we* never had a Christmas in our lives. Our mother did not believe in it, and we are not going to waste our money on other people. We have enough to do to look out for ourselves," and the picture faded.

"This is the heritage which you left your daughters," said the sweet voice at my side, and once more its owner swept the surface of mirror, and I caught a glimpse of Elsie strolling through a brilliantly lighted street leaning on the arm of a man whose face made me shudder, so evil was it.

I could bear no more, and with a cry of—"I will not die, oh, I will not die! Let me have one more chance to be a mother to my girls!" I opened my eyes to find myself still in bed and Lawrence's dear face bending over me.

"Oh, Lawrence," I whispered weakly, "hold me, keep me, do not let me die!"

"No, my darling," he answered, gently, "you will not die. You are better," and I believed him, and sank into a refreshing sleep holding his hand.

I mended rapidly, and two days later, when Lawrence came in from his work I said to him:

"Lawrence, when is Christmas?"

"To-morrow, dearie."

"So soon? I have lost a deal of time lying in this bed."

"Never mind that," answered Lawrence, with his loving eyes upon me; "we have you still. Two days ago we thought you were slipping away from us. We can bear anything now you have come back!"

I broke down at that and sobbed out:

"Oh, I have not been a good wife and mother!" and then I told him my strange vision and begged him to help me right the wrong I had done.

"Surely, surely," said the dear man, cheerily. "We'll have a lovely Christmas, to begin with. Shall we have the little tree?—*and* the stockings?"

"Oh, but the cost, Lawrence! and I have been such an expense to you."

"Never mind that. I'll soon make that all up, and the tree and the gifts shall not cost much," and Lawrence kissed me and went out to make his preparations for the Christmas festivities, to tell the children of the good time in prospect, and to send them in to me to hang their stockings at my chimney side, while I buried my face in the pillows and thanked my Heavenly Father that I still had time to mould my little ones into the noble, unselfish women He intended them to be, and save them from becoming the horrible creatures I had seen them in my vision.

SENSELESS SACRIFICES TO SUPERSTITION.

THE HUMAN SACRIFICES OF THE NINETEENTH CENTURY.

It was the custom of the ancient Britons to honor Woden with a gigantic holocaust. A huge figure, bearing the rude outlines of a man, was fashioned of wicker work, and into this figure were thrust the struggling forms of men and women. Then the priests applied fire to the structure and the miserable victims of human superstition were roasted to death. We shudder as we think of such barbarism. We give thanks that we live in the nineteenth century and in free America. And yet, in this free land, superstition has its votaries and its victims. Statistics prove that each year one-sixth of all the men and women who die are victims



of a disease popularly regarded as incurable—the dread disease, consumption. It would be absurd to deny that in certain stages the victim of consumption is beyond the help of the scientific knowledge of the present day, though every year science grows stronger to aid the consumptive. It is equally absurd to deny that there is abundant evidence that bronchitis, obstinate, lingering cough, bleeding of the lungs, and conditions in general which terminate in consumption, are being cured daily by the use of Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery.

Why, then, are men willing to accept the theory that they are lost to health and happiness? Why do they accept a horrible doom with scarcely a struggle? Because

THEY HAVE BEEN ROBBED

of hope by superstition. The priests of this superstition, the medical men, have said: "Nothing can be done for you," and they accept the dictum and sit down and await their fate. The general attitude of the average medical practitioner toward the sufferer from lung disease is cruel to the extreme. Having no help to offer himself, he denies that there is any help to be found. He pooh poohs a reliable remedy and says don't waste your money, or, as Mr. McCawley's physician said of "Golden Medical Discovery," "You may as well take so much water."

Yet Mr. McCawley took "Golden Medical Discovery" and was cured. He saw a testimonial from a man who had been cured of a diseased condition similar to his own. The doctors couldn't help him; they said it was "a case of die anyway," as Mr. McCawley looked at it. But he was a cautious man. He wrote to the man who claimed to have been cured by Dr. Pierce's medicine before he wrote to Dr. Pierce. That was business.

These testimonials are genuine and honest, and one fact will be noted in almost all of them—that the use of Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery was not begun until the doctors failed to help or pronounced the doom of death.

The one vital question to you if you are sick will be—

WHAT IS MY CHANCE?

Can I be cured? Look at the facts. Read over the testimonials given below and then answer that question in the light of common sense. These people who were cured had lungs just like your lungs, and blood just like your blood. That's the main point to remember. The symptoms may vary, but the body is the same always, and the work of healing to be done in that body is the same in every case. At the least your "chance" of cure is as good as any of those whose testimonials have been given. But there's a brighter word of encouragement for you yet, in the fact that Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery has cured ninety-eight per cent. of all who have given it a fair and faithful trial. Now read these testimonials until you get the facts by heart.

"Twenty-five years ago when I was thirteen years old, I had, what the doctor called consumption," writes Mrs. Ella Taylor Dodge, Matron of the Home for Missionaries' Children, Morgan Park, Ill., Box 165. "He told my mother that nothing could be done for me excepting to make me as comfortable as possible. The pastor of the M. E. Church in the place where I lived heard of my condition, and, although he was not acquainted with our family, he called, and during the call asked my mother if she would allow me to take a medicine if he would send it to me. She thought that it could do no harm if it did no good, so he sent a bottle of Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery. Before the bottle was empty my friends saw a little improvement in my health, whereupon another bottle was bought. I can't say now just how much I took, but I improved steadily, and to-day am a well woman, as you may imagine I must be to have the care of this Home. I have unbounded faith in 'Golden Medical Discovery.'"

"About five years ago," writes Cornelius McCawley, Esq., of Leechburg, Armstrong Co., Pa. "I was taken with hemorrhages, and I had eighty-one of them in all; sometimes spitting five pints of blood at one time. It brought me down so low that I could not walk nor get any sleep. I tried a great many things and went to doctors in Pittsburg, but got no relief. My friends gave me up to die, and indeed gathered two or three times—to see me die. My doctor did all he could for me, was very attentive, but could not stop the hemorrhages, and *all* gave me up to die, with consumption. I got a little book of Dr. Pierce's, and while looking over the names in the pamphlet of those who stated that they had been cured by Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery I found one case that seemed to be exactly like mine—the case of Mr. C. H. Harris. I sat down and wrote to him, describing my case. In about one week I got an answer from him, telling me that Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery saved his life, and he advised me to try it. I told my doctor I would try it, and he said 'You may as well take water,' but I thought it was only '*die*' anyway, I wrote to you and commenced the use of the 'Golden Medical Discovery' and Sage's Catarrh Remedy. When I had taken six bottles I had eight bad hemorrhages; wrote to you and you sent me word to *keep on with the 'Discovery'* and the hemorrhage would stop after a while. I thank the Lord it did. That was over two years ago and I have not had any bleeding since."

If you are suffering from disease in chronic form write to Dr. Pierce, and consult him free, by letter. The offer to you of a free consultation by letter means that all Dr. Pierce's skill and experience, all the medical ability of his staff, and the advisory resources of his great hospital, for such the Invalid's Hotel and Surgical Institute at Buffalo, N. Y., really is—all these are at your service, *absolutely free*, without fee or charge of any kind. Write to Dr. Pierce, Buffalo, N. Y., and you will take the first step to health.

Let no dealer foist on you any other medicine as "just as good" as Dr. Pierce's. Nothing is just as good as "Golden Medical Discovery," which has not that medicine's record of marvelous cures, and no other medicine can show even a shadow of such success in saving life as marks the use of Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery.

THE PATH OF LIFE

is full of pitfalls, into which the ignorant and unwary ceaselessly stumble, to the peril of health and happiness. Dr. Pierce, in his Common Sense Medical Adviser, has done for this unknown land what the explorer has done for the dark continent—mapped it and marked it, and shown how to walk it in safety. This great book on reproductive physiology, hygiene and medicine, containing 1008 pages, and over 700 illustrations, is sent *free* on receipt of stamps to pay expense of mailing *only*. Send 21 one-cent stamps for the book in paper cover or 31 stamps for durable cloth binding. Address Dr. R. V. Pierce, Buffalo, N. Y.

THE BETSY SILVER MINE.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY LOUISE J. STRONG.

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"GIRLS, a letter has come from Uncle Billy. Come in and hear what he says."

"Can't it wait?" Beth asked. "We're just deciding where to plant the peas and I'm sure nothing in the letter can be so important as that."

"I think you'll change your mind when you hear what he says," Mrs. Raymond answered.

The girls flocked into the sitting-room.

"Well, what is it; has he declared war?" Beth asked, sitting down by her father's chair.

"Worse than that," he answered, "he has planned a robbery."

Beth laughed. "It's little he'll find to rob us of," she declared, "unless it might be one of the boys."

"Or one of the girls," he said.

"Oh!" she exclaimed in sudden comprehension.

They looked inquiringly at each other when the letter had been read, but seemed in no haste to speak.

"He seems to think it easy for you to give away a child," Beth said at length. She was usually spokesman.

"But my dear it is only for a long visit," her mother replied.

"And maybe he will do something for the boys if he is pleased with the one who goes," suggested Mary.

"With me you mean," said Beth.

"And why you?" asked her father.

"Of course I must go," Beth asserted. "If Mary left her school the house would fall, and Lois is frightened at the bare idea; then she is such a good nurse you could not spare her."

"I don't know how to spare *any* of you, but brother Billy has never written so kindly and it would be best perhaps for one of you to go," her mother said.

"If I could be well and able to provide as I ought—" Mr. Raymond began.

Beth interrupted him. "After all it's only for a visit, papa; and I ought to be glad to go. I am good for nothing here."

"Beth!" remonstrated her mother.

"It is true, mamma; you can never make a teacher of me, even Mary has given up hope of that and my music doesn't pay enough to keep me," Beth answered.

"We'll all have the blues," muttered Martin, who had been an interested listener, "and I bet if Uncle Billy gets you out there he'll never let you come back again."

Beth dashed her hand across her eyes and laughed. "You needn't think that, Martin; I guess if I tried hard I could be so disagreeable that he would be glad to get rid of me. And I'll write such letters home! Tommy Dauddles' stationery will be of some use now."

"It's too bad of you Beth to speak so of Professor Newell," Mary protested. "I am afraid he will feel dreadfully about your going away."

Beth looked conscious and her cheeks grew pink, but the other boys came in and she was spared further discussion of Professor Newell's feelings.

Uncle Billy had sent a check for expenses and Beth departed in good spirits, "leaving a vacancy at home much too large for a girl of her size," as her brother Austin put it. At the end of her journey she was met by a large man whom she recognized as Uncle Billy by his resemblance to the old picture of him at home.

"Well, and which one is it?" he asked.

"I'm the second girl, Elizabeth," Beth said stiffly. He ought to have remembered that; they had told him which one was coming.

"Oh, it's Betsy is it?" he said.

"They call me Beth at home."

"Betsy was good enough for your grandmother, and ought to be good enough for you."

"It's too good. I'll have to grow to it," said Beth. "Suppose you call me Elizabeth if you don't like my home name."

"No, Betsy'll do," he insisted. "You said you were the second girl, how many are there?"

"You mean all of us?" she asked.

He nodded and Beth, delighted to talk of the family, gave him a biography of them all from the least to the greatest.

"Your father's sick a good deal, isn't he?" he asked when she had finished.

"Yes," said Beth regretfully, "and he has been worse than usual this last winter, but he is getting better now."

"He has no business with so many of you," Uncle Billy said a little roughly.

"He couldn't very well kill any of us," Beth answered demurely.

"Well, no, I suppose not," he admitted, glancing at her with a twinkle in his eye.

Before she had been there two weeks they were fast friends, and at the end of a month Uncle Billy was wondering how he was ever going to let her go home again. She learned to ride and developed such skill in managing her horse and caring for herself that she was allowed to roam unattended over mountain and plain.

She came in one evening much excited. "Uncle Billy," she cried, "did you know there was a silver mine about here somewhere?"

"I know the greasers say so."

"And don't you believe it?"

"Oh, I expect they used to dig out a little silver in the mountains here, but nothing to pay."

"I'm going to find it," she declared.

"Well, if you do you may have it," he said.

"Do you mean it Uncle Billy, really and truly?"

"Really and truly, and I don't go back on my word," but he laughed so heartily that she went to her room offended.

From that day she had a purpose in the wanderings, and went to work systematically to learn all that was possible about the silver mine. She rode miles to interview those who knew the country best; she talked with every greaser and Indian that she came across, and succeeded in locating its probable whereabouts within certain limits which she determined to search thoroughly. Being Beth, she could not keep all this from the folks at home and her glowing letters so fired the boys' imaginations that the two oldest seriously contemplated undertaking the journey on foot that they might help her. The older heads foreseeing probable disappointment, advised her to be prepared for it, and cautioned her anxiously against losing herself in the mountains or being carried away by wild animals, at which Beth laughed a little, saying to Uncle Billy:

"They think there is a mountain lion behind every rock, and as for disappointment poor papa and mamma think there is nothing else to be looked for in life, they have had so much of it. And if I succeed they shall come out here, and papa will get well."

The cautions set Uncle Billy thinking, and after that he required that she leave plain directions as to where she was going to search each day when she set out. He did not dare laugh at her notion now but was planning something as an offset for the disappointment he, too, thought inevitable, which would have sent her into raptures of delight had she paid attention to what was going on. But she was absorbed in her prospecting and spent most of her time roaming over the mountains on her pony.

Riding along one day she was startled at hearing a ringing tenor voice trolling a gay song and she listened in surprise. "It sounds like—but it can't be," she thought.

A horseman appeared around a point, the song stopped at sight of her and the singer came up with outstretched hands, and eyes of wistful tenderness.

"Tommy Da——! or—I mean—Professor Newell!" she stammered, growing very red.

"Yes," he said, smiling, "Tommy Dauddles or Professor Newell, whichever you please. They told me at the house I would find you out this way, they thought."

"I am ashamed of myself for picking up the boy's nonsense," she apologized. "How did you come here?"

"The usual way," he replied.

"How did you know where I was? I told them——" She paused.

"Not to tell me," he finished cheerfully. "Yes, I know but I bribed Martie."

"And then followed me," she said.

"Oh, I've been out here before, though I didn't know Mr. Wilson was your uncle. I've spent two vacations up at my friend Burton's ranch."

"I didn't know," Beth faltered, covered with confusion at having taken too much for granted.

"I don't mind telling you, though," he went on, "that I shouldn't have come out here this summer if you hadn't been here, Beth."

"How like home it is to see you!" she exclaimed. "I believe I am a little homesick, but I shall not go home very soon if I am."

"Why, are you so fond of the mountains?" he asked.

"I love them," she replied, "but that isn't the reason. I'm going to stay till I—but you will laugh at me."

"I never laugh at you," he protested. "Tell me."

"They say there is a silver mine here somewhere, and I am going to find it. Uncle Billy laughs but says if I find it I can have it."

"They hoped at home that you would go back with me at the end of my vacation, and so did I Beth."

"Of course you don't believe in the silver mine either," she said disregarding this.

"Oh, the report may be true. All the Mexicans tell of it, but it has been lost so long that no one knows much about it. I hope you won't set your heart on it," he said earnestly.

"I have set my heart on it," she declared, "and I am not going to give it up."

"Then you must let me help you."

"No, I will not have your help," she answered.

And no urging of his could change her decision, but he managed to see a good deal of her nevertheless, for Uncle Billy had a great liking for him and was always urging him to stay with them.

"And he dawdles around after me just as he used to," Beth wrote complainingly to Mary.

And Mary answered, "You are unreasonable Beth, I don't believe you know your own mind. You will never find a better man nor one who cares for you as he does."

"No, I am not unreasonable," Beth whispered to herself, reading Mary's words. "I know very well what he is and how much he—" she broke off, pressing her hands to her hot cheeks, "but I know too that he has nothing but his profession, and we are poor as poverty, and 'a man takes a heavy load upon himself who marries into such a large family,' as Granny White says. He shall not do it."

So Professor Newell's vacation was drawing to a close and matters were still on their old footing except that Uncle Billy openly espoused his cause, but without helping him in the least.

"You didn't see Beth I suppose or you would have brought her home," Aunt Martha said to him one afternoon when he arrived as usual.

Professor Newell looked anxious. "She is generally in before this isn't she?" he asked.

There was a commotion outside; Uncle Billy rushed to the door. "Betsy's pony has come in without her," he cried.

Aunt Martha wrung her hands, Professor Newell with a white face sprang for his horse. Uncle Billy followed hallooing to every man in sight or sound, and soon a cavalcade was galloping towards the mountains.

They grew very anxious as the hours passed and darkness was closing in and no trace of her had been found. The men scattered out, covering as much ground as possible, shouting at intervals and listening, hoping for a reply, their torches flashing like beacon lights. At last there came an answering cry.

"Thank heaven she is alive," the professor exclaimed tearing over the bowlders like mad.

"Oh, Tom, Tom!" a voice wailed.

"Beth darling, where are you?" he cried.

"Here," she answered almost at his feet. "Is it really you Tom? Be careful."

But she was too late, the professor plunging ahead recklessly felt the ground give way beneath him, and dropped into a black pit.

"You should have stayed at the top and pulled me out." Beth said with a hysterical giggle. "I was never so glad to see any one in my life."

"Oh, Beth my darling are you safe?" clasping her close.

"I seem to be safe now at least, but my arm is sprained," she replied.

"For one awful moment I feared I should crush you in falling. I am going to take you straight home Beth."

"We'll get out first won't we?" she said saucily.

Uncle Billy was fuming at the top and calling upon everybody to witness that once he laid hands on her Betsy should never again expose herself to such an accident.

"Fasten the rope about her, Newell, and send her up," he cried.

"Uncle Billy I want a torch down here," Beth said.

"Come out of that!" he commanded.

"I won't! I believe I have found it and I won't stir until we see."

In another instant Uncle Billy had thrust the rope into the hands of the men and swung himself down.

"You little jade!" he said, but there were tears in his eyes as he picked her up and kissed her.

The torches disclosed an excavation in the side of the mountain, and Uncle Billy after examining it keenly a few moments called: "Come down here Morris won't you? I believe she has run it down at last."

Morris had had experience and at once decided that she had really found the silver mine, at which the men set up a hurrah. Beth was wild with joy, and made them tie a handkerchief to a stout stake and plant it firmly by the pit, for fear they could not otherwise find it.

"I've looked at hundreds of places that seemed just like this from below but when I got up here and saw that hole I felt sure I had found it and then I tried to see what was down there and fell in."

"And wasn't you scared?" asked Uncle Billy.

"I was a little afraid of snakes, and a good deal afraid that you might never find me, and my left arm was helpless and I couldn't climb out."

"Why Newell and I would have torn down the mountains before we'd given you up," he said.

A thorough examination next morning showed indications that warranted an immediate opening of the mine. Uncle Billy promptly named it the "Betsy Silver Mine," declaring that Beth had earned it and it belonged to her, and later the family received this jubilant message; "Found! Get ready to come out here immediately; all of you. Particulars by letter."

Beth's arm was very painful but the doctor who had been hastily summoned pronounced it only a severe sprain which would soon recover.

After the mine had been talked over and settled to every one's satisfaction Uncle Billy asked:

"Did you think I would let you go back home Betsy if you had failed?"

"Why of course I would have gone home again," she answered decidedly.

"What do you think I am doing with all that building stuff out there by the grove?"

"Why, I never thought of it. Putting up a house I suppose," she replied.

"Yes, but what do you think I am building for?"

"I don't know," she said slowly. "Oh, Uncle Billy do you mean—but you can't mean that you were going to do that," she cried.

"Yes I do. I have been fixing to bring them all out here. I guess I've never been quite fair to your father; I had my mind made up that your mother should marry some one else, and I've never had much to do with them. He'll get well out here and with the boys can run a ranch of his own," he explained.

"Oh, you blessed Uncle Billy!" and she threw her sound arm around his neck. "And if I hadn't found the mine it would have been all right."

"It would have been all right," he repeated. "I suppose Professor Newell will remain of course. Your husband will be the best business manager you can get," he added mischievously.

And Beth turned a blushing, radiant face to the professor, but he did not object.



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A DAY OF TROUBLE.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY HELEN M. WINSLOW.

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AY, Philury," says my pardner one day last summer when he come in from mendin' the fence. "Le's give a garden party."

"A garden party," says I, "What's that?"

"Wal,—er—it's what all the fashionables give. I heerd over to Freetown the other day that Senator Hart's folks wuz goin' to give one, an' the postmaster said everybody as is anybody nowdays gives 'em. And By Gum," says Joshua, waxing profane, "If Jim Hart has got so awful stylish thet he c'n give garden parties, I can."

"It's that new wife he married down in Washington," says I, "not Jim Hart thet does it. Jim Hart ain't a person to put on style, if he is a senator. But they dew say thet new wife of his'n leads him a rig. But I dunno 's thet's any reason why we need to make fools of ourselves."

"Now thet's alwuz the way with a woman," says my pardner, his dander on the rise. "Let them get hold of a new-fangled idee fust an' they'll raise the roof to kerry it out; but let the man, the head of the house an' their rightful lord," here he swelled himself out and took on an important air, "propose one an' they want to throw cold water all over it."

"Joshua," says I in my most conciliatin' tones, for I see we were on the aidge of a fam'ly jar an' in immediate danger of fallin'. "You know I ain't slow to fall in with new idees; but I dew hate tew see the pardner of my life joys an' sorrers made a laffin'stock of. The town of Pottsville ain't used to garden parties. They'd shy at 'em like a colt at a wheelbarrow; an' how'd you feel ef you went to the expense of gittin' up a thing thet nobody'd come tew? Besides, what be they? garden parties, I mean."

"Wal, I see a whole lot of folks out on Hart's lawn and in his grounds, all dressed up tew kill; they had a table set under a tent and had ice cream an' lemonade, etsettery; an' ez fur 's I c'd see everybody wuz enjoyin' themselves fust rate."

"O, a picnic on his own grounds," I said. "Well I don't think it's polite to ask folks to see you an' make 'em stay outdoors an' eat their own vittles. I put my foot down agin picnics."

"I tell you it ain't a picnic," snapped Joshua again. I see he was gettin' wrathy again an' made haste to mollify him. "Is the' anything you would 'specially like to hev cooked for supper?"

"Hot biscuits an' honey would go well," he said. (He can always forget a grievance when good things to eat are round). But as he went out of the shed I heerd him mutter:

"Durn a woman, anyway."

The next day he came back from the post-office all wrought up again an' talked about garden parties till out o' sheer weariness of the subject I told him to go ahead an' get up his garden party to suit himself.

Now the trials I endured with that man gettin' up that party decidin' who to ask, how to ask 'em, what to give 'em to eat (for I put my foot down ag'n their bringin' their own vittles to my house first off), whether to set one table or a dozen little ones, where to raise a tent, whether he should wear his linen pants or his alapaccy ones, an' etsettery, would fill a volume, and I ain't writin' a book. But the day finally dawned and rolled along into a hot afternoon. It was in the middle of August and Natur' done her prettiest for us, except thet Old Sol (I've seen him called so in books, meanin' the sun), was a leetle too warm in his attentions; in fact, it was pipin' hot. Joshua hed asked about everybody connected with the Methodist church, in which he'd been a pillar for thirty years, an' didn't want to hurt anybody by slightin' them. They begun to come about two o'clock, tho' I heerd afterwards thet garden parties, when done real stylish, don't begin till about five. Prob'ly a hundred folks come in all, an' I don't believe one of those shook hands with me an' Joshua without sayin:'

"Well, how-dye-do? thought I'd come early so's to see what a garden party is like, anyway."

An' every one of 'em declared before the day was over thet it was nothin' more 'n a picnic where they didn't furnish the vittles. An' I noticed none of 'em didn't shed tears over that part of it, an' all went home sayin' they'd had an elegant time. Which I persoom they did, fer my cookin' stands high in Pottsville an' I laid myself out on that party.

I had a good enough time, but Joshua won't give no more garden parties; he said so that night when we finally tied on our nightcaps over two as tired heads as ever laid down to rest.

In the first place, he had felt pretty frisky

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for a man of sixty. He got the young folks to playin' crokay early an' they seemed to be havin' a real good time until Mis' Brown come, bringin' with her Emmeline and a young man from Boston with red hair an' glasses, who spoke in a languishin' way an' put up an eye-glass every time he was introduced to a young girl, sayin' "How-de-do" in a die-away, hold-me-up way thet made me want to shake him.

Joshua asked him if he wouldn't like to play crokay and handed him a mallet; but the young feller only looked at it thro' his eye-glass and said:

"Well, really now, don't ye know, I don't know how to play these antiquated games. Haven't you a golf course?"

His tone more than anything else madded Joshua, and he said:

"No, young man, I hain't; an' if I had I wouldn't let you have it." He was going on to say more, but I pulled his coattail and made him stop. Nothin' makes Joshua so mad, as a dude; it is like wavin' a red rag to a bull.

But the young man didn't seem to sense his danger, and kep' a talkin' to my pardner. He asked him when a horse moulted; when a pig ceased to be a pig and became a hog; which cow gave sour milk, and if he ever put up hay-seed for the market.

"Why," says he, "I understand there's places where you could get fifty cents a pound fer your whisker-trimmin's."

Joshua ain't a fool, if I do say it as shouldn't. He knewt the young feller was a-tryin' to guy him, and he set out to git even with him.

"Come right down this way," says he to the feller in a tone so cordial I knew at once there was guile in his heart. "The cow that gives sour milk is in the barn jest this minute, lucky you spoke. I alwuz love to 'commodate you city fellers in any little way I can."

The young man didn't mistrust anything, but winking to Emmeline (I see him do it on the sly), he stepped off with the greatest alacrity. Meanwhile some of the men, deacons and elders and brethren high in class-meeting, caught on to what was goin' on and they follored along towards the barn. It was all I could do to keep the women folks engaged in conversation so's 't they wouldn't hear. Joshua told me of it afterwards.

"I wuz boun' to git even with the loon," says he; "so I took him down and showed him a bed of smartweed. 'There,' says I, 'I notice you hev trouble with your eyes. If you would give 'em a good rubbin' with some o' this 'ere weed things would look different to ye. Even hay-seed would be easier told from some other things.' I didn't think he'd be such a greeny, but he up an' grabbed a big bunch o' smart-weed an' rubbed it well against his eye. It wasn't but a minute before he began to yell. But I paid no 'tention to him; an' pretty soon I ushered him into the shed that red cow that I took her calf from is. No sooner did she catch sight of that flamin' red tie o' his with floatin' ends than she lit out for him and in less time than I can tell it in, she give him a boost that landed him straddle the fence. A sca'tter feller you never see. He fairly shivered. 'Would you like to see more?' I said. 'I've got a nice cosset sheep out here I'd like to interduce ye to ef you'd like to meet any more curiosities on this farm. Then there's a sow in the orchard, if you want—' But before I could finish, he broke loose an' the way he scooted for the house an' Emmeline was a caution."

That was when I see him come racing across the lawn like a madman an' straight for Mrs. Brown an' Emmeline.

"I p'otest," he cried. "I'm insulted at every turn. I shall go home. Such barbawity weally I never saw."

At this Mis' Brown she fired up.

"Joshua Winterbottom, I'm ashamed of you," says she. "I am going home. If this is one of your new-fangled garden parties I'll have none of 'em. Come Emmeline, come Mr. Emerson-Clark." And off they sailed, in spite of all I could do or say. As for Joshua, he would't do or say anything to hinder.

Of course, the men all laughed and tee-heed and called it a great joke. I've noticed sensible men, as a rule, haint no great sympathy with a dude. But I was pizen sick of the whole performance. Besides I knew jest how Mis' Brown would go away an' talk about our garden party.

Things went on pretty well until time to serve the supper. I had laid myself out on that supper and all would hev gone well if Joshua hadn't insisted on helpin' pass things. There was plenty of young and pretty girls to do it; but in spite of that, or perhaps because of it, he wouldn't keep away from the kitchen.

He passed a plate o' sandwiches without any mishap an' I headed him off 'n the coffee an' cream. It was when we come to the ice cream an' cake that we see trouble. I dished it out an' give it to Luella Clarke and Juliette Babbitt to carry round on little trays covered with my newest embroidered cloths; but no sooner did they git started out than Joshua, who was gittin' excited the tireder he got, grabbed a fresh platter of cream that I had just turned out to cut an' off he went, passin' it for a second helpin'. That would have been all right but when he got out to the garden seat he tripped his toe and over he went, spillin' the cream all over him an' fallin' into it so's to completely ruin his alapaccy coat an' pants that he'd finally put on for the occasion. I had to put 'em into the tub an' give 'em a regular scrubbin' an' they shrunk so's't they are too short in the arms an' legs, makin' him look like a school boy; but I tell him they are too good to throw away or make carpet-rags of, so he'll have to wear 'em out.

But that ain't all; he turned his ankle, and as is always the way with a man, he begun to yell with the pain.

"Philura," he howled, "come here, I'm almost killed. My leg's broke, an' all because you would make me pass things."

"Hush, hush," says I. "You set up an' keep still; I'll fetch the arnicky an' you try to be a man."

At this he quieted down a little, but he had to have the rockin' chair from the settin'-room fetched out an' his ankle had to be rubbed, an' meanwhile Mis' Perkins an' the girls had to see about the rest of the supper an' pickin' up the dishes an' washin' 'em. For a injured husband, that is if he ain't much damaged, is about all one woman wants to 'tend to. I thought the folks never would git cleared out; some had to stay to slick up the house and grounds a little for me, and some had to do Joshua's chores; but finally, about half past nine, the last one shut the gate and went away.

"Wal, Philura," says my partner, "I hope you're satisfied now. But you needn't never ast me again to give a garden-party nor a lawn-party neither, fer I won't."

And rememberin' his damaged condition I held my tongue.

AN UNSAVORY DISH.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY RUPE BARNBY.

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As one journeys toward the headwaters of the Mackenzie river, through the dense growths of primitive forest which close in upon him more and more ominously as he advances, he will find himself looking ever more expectantly, as he goes, for the little clearings in the woods that mark the locations of the trading posts along the route.

These last vestiges of civilization occur at regular intervals along the way, like a long series of stepping stones leading from civilized society into the heart of the wilderness; and to the traveler, wearied with a long day's march, they are indeed welcome sights, presaging refreshment, rest and good cheer.

Not far from the junction of the Coldwater Branch and the upper Mackenzie, is the station well known among all the hunters and traders of this vast wilderness region as "Uncle Ben's" from the fact that old Ben Washburne, a famous trapper in his day, has for years had charge of the post and all that goes on within it.

And it is not to be wondered at that "Uncle Ben's" has such a wide reputation among the woodsmen of upper Canada, for well the swarthy trapper deserves all the praise and commendation which are his. Never was there a tidier or neater home among the most fastidious of our city dwellers than are the station buildings under Uncle Ben's care, plain structures of rough hewn logs though they be. And as for Washburne's tins and china, many a neat New England housewife would open her eyes wide in astonishment with a glimpse at their polished cleanliness.

But it is in his culinary skill that Uncle Ben has won the greater part of his renown, and there are those who confidently assert, not without reason I must admit, that his cooking, all in all, is practically faultless. What roasts of vension and steaming hot rolls, delicious coffee and Canadian pancakes done to a turn I have eaten within the unpretentious walls of that wilderness trading post! It makes my mouth water, even now, just to think of it!

Some years ago, after a long day's tramp in the company of my guide, Joe Bentley, we arrived late in the day, tired and hungry, at Uncle Ben's. Ah, what a feast he spread before us! Such dainties one would hardly expect to find in the depths of the woods. What inroads we made into the viands placed before us, too, as Uncle Ben looked good naturedly on, justly proud of our appreciation of his skill!

One dish in particular I was surprised to see on this woodland table, and ate with good relish, tripe. But I noticed that my companion never as much as touched it, excellently prepared though it was.

"Joe," I remonstrated at last, "why don't you eat some of this tripe? You'll not have such a chance again in many a day."

"I know it," said he, amid his struggles with a huge slice of venison, "but it's an unsavory dish with me, and if you want to know why, I don't mind tellin' you, bimeby."

As we sat before the roaring fire, that night, enjoying our pipes in the firelight, Joe told me his reasons at full length, as follows:

"When I became of age, I decided to adopt woodcraft as my calling, and apprenticed myself to an old woodsman named Bushard. He knew his business well, was a good shot with the rifle, and understood wild varmints and all their curious ways. Not a winter passed without finding us with a good supply of pelts on hand as the result of the season's work, which meant of course plenty of money in our pockets in the spring.

"Take it all in all, Bushard was good company in the woods, his only fault being that he was rather inclined to be silent. Once in a while, however, he grew quite talkative about the campfire, and such times would even go to the extent, now and then, of relating some of his experiences. One incident in particular he seemed especially fond of relating, and told it to me a dozen times, at least. It was this:

"'I once had a pard by the name of Baldy. What his real name was I can't say, because he was never known among us trappers as anybody else but just Baldy, and the reason was that as sure as I'm sitting here, he hadn't a spear of hair on his head not one.

"'Baldy always went through the woods bareheaded, because he was proud of his pate, the boys used to say jokingly, but in reality, in my opinion, because he lived in the hope that exposure to all kinds of weather might in time bring out another crop of hair on his head again; but if so, he must have been sorely disappointed, for it never came.

"'On the contrary, something ten times worse happened. One day as we were picking our way through a thick spruce swamp near the base of a long range of high hills, Baldy without a cap as usual, all to onct at the upturned roots of an overthrown hemlock, we found ourselves face to face with as big a grizzly bear as I ever saw in my life. Whew! but he was a whopper! You don't see none such nowadays.

"'Well, Baldy was a little in advance, with his rifle over his shoulder, going rather careless like, and almost before he knew what had happened, that surly bear had up and jumped upon him, and seized his uncovered, unprotected head right between his great jaws. Seeing the danger which my pard was in, I fired instantly, and throwing aside my gun, dashed upon the beast with my drawn knife.

"'The struggle was an awful one while it lasted, but was soon over, and the huge carcass of the forest monster lay lifeless at my feet. I had acted as quick as mortal man could move, and in the nick of time to save my companion from death; but not, alas, from serious injury. When at last I succeeded in extricating the poor, bleeding fellow from the vice like grip of the savage bear, I found him still alive, but the great tusks of the grizzly's heavy jaw had torn away his scalp from ear to forehead.

"'Ah, but Baldy showed himself then a man to the core. In spite of his awful suffering he never flinched once while I bound up his wounds as best I could. Not a groan or complaint escaped him, but picking up the bit of skin torn from his head, he put it in his pocket with a laugh, remarking that after all, it was but a small loss, one which he above all others could best afford, and, poor fellow, I guess he was right.

"'In a wonderfully short time Baldy was well and around again, practically as good as ever; but what do you think he did with his scalp? Why, he put it in a bottle of alcohol and gave it to a friend of his as a memento to remember him by! Baldy's dead and gone, long ago, but I have good reason to know that that friend of his still has his memento, which he carefully preserves; and that's all that there is left of Baldy, now, poor fellow.'

"I served an apprenticeship of five years with Bushard, and every one of those five seasons we got on finely together, with no ill luck attending us until the very last. But on our last trip home from our trapping grounds, as we came back laden with furs and highly elated over our good luck, in some unaccountable manner, just how I was never quite able to understand, we became confused and lost our way.

"Now it so happened that we were scant of provisions that year, and for that reason had set out for home considerably earlier than usual. We had remained at our trapping, however, as long as we felt it safe to venture under the circumstances, reluctant to leave until it was absolutely necessary; and from this cause it came about that the amount of provender we held back for our homeward journey was barely sufficient to carry us home on a pinch, and a tight one at that.

"To be lost in the woods, fifty miles and more from any human habitation, is bad enough under any circumstances, but with provisions out and little or no prospect of securing sustenance from any other source, the outlook may well be termed disheartening. Day and night we plunged ahead through bogs and swamps and over ancient windfalls in the hope of striking the Mackenzie, scarcely stopping for any rest or refreshment at all and half crazed with desperation.

"I never saw the woods so silent and deserted as they were just at that time. Not a bird or beast of any kind could be brought to bag with the rifle, and our supplies were soon out altogether. We then took to eating roots and twigs, even chewing our leather belts and portions of our moccasins, but our strength was gradually failing us, and well we knew that if the river was not reached soon, we should perish.

"Realization of our danger spurred us on for a time, but at last I gave out, being younger and less inured to hardship, and sinking upon the ground declared that I could not move another step. Nothing that my companion could say could arouse me to renewed efforts. In vain he pleaded, commanded, threatened. I could only beg for nourishment in husky tones: 'haven't you a thing to eat about you, not even a bit of meal in the corner of your knapsack?'

"Suddenly Bushard's face brightened. 'Yes, come to think of it, I have just the thing, a little bottle of pickled restorative which I carry for just such an occasion as this! Here! take it and eat it! No, I don't want any of it, you can have it all.'

"It was like a bit of yonder tripe, but thoroughly impregnated with whiskey, and so revived me that I was soon able to rise and push ahead again. At last we reached the river and soon after a trading post, but so thoroughly exhausted were we that it was weeks before we were strong enough to continue on again.

"'Bushard,' I said to my companion one day during our protracted stay at the post, 'that was quite a remedy for exhaustion you had in your knapsack, well worth having by a fellow in case of accident; what was it, anyway?'

"For a minute and more he looked me full in the face and then replied: 'I told you, you know, that I was the only real friend poor old Baldy ever had,' and not another word could I get out of him.

"Well, it was weeks before it dawned upon me what Bushard meant. But don't you see, that 'ere restorative was that memento! Baldy's bottled scalp which he had carried in his knapsack thirty years and more!"

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Men, Women and Things.

CONDUCTED BY JENNIE MELVENE DAVIS.



The richest woman in the world lives under a fictitious name in a meager little flat in Hoboken, New Jersey. Hetty Green means to take care of her millions and to save herself from the annoyance of begging letters. Mrs. Green is sixty-five years of age but she has far more energy and animation than many a younger woman. She has been called eccentric, but her type is found in many a small village and it is her wealth rather than her peculiar ways that have made Hetty Green prominent. She manages her own business to a very large degree. Her dealings with lawyers usually end in a quarrel and she has been engaged in almost constant litigation. "Three things I detest" says this outspoken woman, "lawyers, tax collectors and beggars. I'll admit there may be some good lawyers but the people will be better off soon as they are all done away with." Mrs. Green is a shrewd business woman and has a genius for finance. She claims descent from Governor Rogers of Connecticut and says there have been many millionaires in her family. She learned business methods when a young woman by assisting her father in the management of his estates. She married at the age of thirty but Mr. Green is rather a silent partner in the family. There are two children. The daughter is an attractive young woman and will inherit a fortune from both her mother and her aunt. The father is a member of several clubs in New York but Mrs. Green has never made any social effort. The busy world of down town New York knows Hetty Green well and fears her but to Society she is utterly unknown.

Elbert Hubbard is the Philistine whose sayings and doings have amused the country and inspired the town of East Aurora, New York. He publishes the Philistine, a periodical of protest and brown paper. Mr. Hubbard's personality is as unique as his magazine. As he writes the most of the magazine each month his opinions have been widely read. He hails from the State of Illinois and has brought something of the spirit of his native state to the little town that he has made well known. Mr. Hubbard was and is a practical stock breeder. He has also written a number of books. Little Journeys to the Homes of Great and Good Men, two or three novels, many essays and a historical novel Time and Chance, which tells the story of John Brown. He published a short sermon in the Philistine called "A Message to Garcia." This has been widely read. The New York Central Railroad had thousands of copies printed for free distribution after it had placed a copy in the hands of each employee of the road. Sermons were preached in the pulpit in this practical preachment of the East Aurora publisher. Mr. Hubbard's best work has been that of practical philanthropy instead of acrid protest. He has established at East Aurora an artistic book bindery known as the Reycroft Press. The best and most artistic work on this line is done here by country boys and girls. A book binder was imported from Germany and he gave lessons in the art of binding by hand. Now the Reycroft Press turns out one hundred dollar editions of Shakespeare's sonnets, exquisite books in flexible leather covers with satin linings, books printed on real vellum and many other illustrations of all that is beautiful, artistic and expensive. The workers in the shop are paid good wages and share profits; they have a fifteen minute recess in the morning, an hour at noon and all of Saturday afternoon. The work shop is a club room where baths and a piano may be used. Mr. Hubbard works about the shop in bicycle breeches and flannel shirt. His piercing black eyes see everything but he never commands—only encourages and advises. His work is changing the whole life of the little town—hand labor has its old recognition as one of the hightest means of expressing personality. It is a bit of old Europe reproduced in America and fulfilling the practical and the poetical. Mr. Hubbard's success is as unique as the man.

The name "F. Opper" signed to a caricature is a promise of fun. For twenty years his name has been a synonym for fun, wit and humor. His sketches and caricatures have kept all America laughing and his fertile brain seems far from being exhausted. Mr. Opper was born in Ohio in 1857. From his earliest years he wished to be an artist but when he left school at the age of fourteen it was to take a position in a village store. Then he became a printer's devil and soon rose to be type-setter. Then he drifted to New York where he finally accepted employment in a store. He exercised his artistic ability by illustrating window cards advertising some special line of goods. All his leisure hours were spent in sketching and the comic vein was prominent. These rough sketches were taken from one newspaper to another and finally some were accepted. Then Mr. Opper left the store and finally accepted a salaried position with "Leslie." Three years later he became a member of the staff of Puck and remained with that paper for nearly eighteen years. His success and that of the paper are inseparable. Last spring he become one of the staff of the New York Journal. Mr. Opper makes sketches of people, scenery and events and then works out his ideas by himself. He says that he reads the newspapers and follows current events and his caricatures suggest themselves to him. The man who has made millions laugh has certainly given a substantial contribution to the world's welfare. His caricatures have furnished endless merriment but they have had and do have a most important political effect.

The heads of great libraries are coming to be recognized more and more as powerful factors in the intellectual life of the nation. The new librarian of Columbia University is Dr. James Huline Canfield who resigned the presidency of Ohio State University to accept this position. Dr. Canfield is well known both in the east and the west. He is a man of great personal magnetism and an orator of no mean power. He has had a varied experience in the educational world from the time of his graduation from Williams College in 1868 until the present time. The first twenty years of his life were spent in Brooklyn, where his father is a well-known clergyman. His early education was at the Brooklyn Polytechnic Institute. He entered the educational field as Superintendent of the schools of St. Joseph, Missouri. He next went to the University of Kansas where he filled the chairs of history, literature and political science successively until the year 1891. The Ohio State University then called him and under his successful administration the school doubled in numbers. The income was vastly increased and many new buildings were added. Dr. Canfield has been called an educational expansionist. It is believed that he will co-operate with Dr. Billings the head of the Public Library in New York in making the library facilities of the city worthy of the greatest city of the greatest nation on earth.



Few subjects have been of greater interest than the great international cup races for the coveted cup that America has held since the "fifties." The captains of the racing yachts are a powerful factor in success. The cup defender *Columbia* was sailed by a man who comes of a family of yachtsmen. Not the kind of yachtsmen who own steam yachts but the kind who build boats and sail them. The Barr family are known to all the yachting men in the country. They are Scotch and the father of the *Columbia's* captain built and sailed boats and small yachts on the Clyde. His sons and grandsons have followed the sea. His son John Barr is a famous prize winner and his grandson who is twenty-seven, commands the *Shona*. Captain Charles Barr, the *Columbia's* captain, was born in Scotland in 1864. He spent much of his early life in school and even studied law but the scent of the salt was in his nostrils and before he was twenty he had turned his back on scholastic things and shipped under his brother as a common hand. He rose to the command and has been captain of the *Wasp* the *Gloriana*, and the *Navajo*. He has also sailed the *Vigilant* and the *Colonia*. He is in charge of the *Colonia* at present but was allowed to take command of the *Columbia* to defend the cup. All his racing experience has been in American waters and he is now a naturalized citizen of the United States.



The war in the Transvaal emphasizes the fact that the Peace Conference last summer at The Hague was more poetical than practical in its results. At the same time it makes the personality of the man whose work suggested the Conference of more than ordinary interest. Baron Johann von Block is a Russian official of high rank. He gave eight years of hard and exhaustive study to modern conditions of warfare and the result was "The War of the Future" a book in six volumes. It was owing to the powerful effect of this book upon the mind of the Czar of Russia that the call for disarmament was issued. The book itself does not appeal directly for the abolition of war. It gives a powerfully graphic picture of the result, the miseries and horrors of conflict are so vividly portrayed that the conclusion that war must not be tolerated is forced upon the reader. The statement that a war between the nations of the Dual and Triple Alliance would put 15,000,000 men in the field with a daily expense of $20,000,000 sets even political economists to counting the cost of war. It is a practical estimate of war from the side of the expert in destructive weapons, the political economists and the humanitarian. Baron von Block is no visionary nor dreamer but from his earliest years he has had a horror of war. He is sixty-five years old but his piercing eyes and quick energetic movements make him seem much younger. He is quick in manner except when he becomes excited in a discussion on his favorite topic, the barbarity of war. Then he is fierce and forceful. He speaks English fairly well and also uses eight or nine other languages. He was a prominent figure at the Peace Conference. It must have been very gratifying to him to meet the ablest men of all nations gathered to discuss the question of a universal peace. In spite of war and rumors of war the Peace Conference marked an epoch in civilization and Baron Von Block was the strongest factor in bringing about that result.



From a ranch in far away Australia comes the leading soprano singer of the world—Melba. November brought the season of grand opera to New York and chief in the galaxy of stars was the woman who was Nellie Mitchell. The Australian nightingale is today the greatest prima donna of the times and she owes it all to her own indomitable energy and perseverance. She spent the greater part of her childhood on her father's ranches in the Australian wilderness. A small part of each year was spent in Melbourne and from that city the great singer takes her stage name. She comes of a musical family, her father having a very fine baritone voice. She did her share of the housework and washed and wiped dishes or did any other tasks within her childish power. She taught herself to play on the piano and later had instruction in Melbourne. She tells of her sorrow when they were forced to leave town and return to the ranch and she was deprived of her piano. Her father pacified her by furnishing a concertina. When the traveling minister came Melba assisted at services by playing on her concertina. At this time it was her ambition to become a great pianist but her father disapproved of her adopting music as a profession. Her first public appearance was made at a concert given in the town hall by some children. Melba sang the "Last Rose of Summer," and "Coming thro' the Rye." She continued to study music in a desultory way and learned to play the pipe organ among other instruments. She was married at the early age of seventeen. Her determination to pursue a musical career gradually developed. She began to sing in public and finally was urged by friends to study in Europe. At last she found herself in Paris. The shy awkward girl from the Australian wilds applied for tuition to the celebrated voice teacher Madame Marchesi. Frightened and almost fainting she stood up to sing before the great critic who will not instruct pupils that do not show great ability. When Melba had finished her song, the celebrated teacher took both of her hands and assured the Australian girl that she would one day be her greatest pupil. Melba was poor and for two years she worked almost night and day to prepare for her debut. Success meant the world before her—failure, a return to the Australian ranch. The great trial came in Brussels. The rest of the cast sang in French but Melba did not know sufficient French to sing her role so gave it in Italian. The trial was a triumph and engagements came from all parts of Europe. From that night Melba's success was assured and now she stands at the head of her profession. She says the secret of her success is hard work and confidence in her own ability. She is constantly studying and practicing new roles for she realizes that there must be constant growth. She has never returned to Australia but has recently presented a portrait bust of herself to the Melbourne Public Library. Her father is still living and thoroughly enjoys the fact that his little Nellie is now one of the world's greatest singers. Melba is a very beautiful woman with an exquisite taste in dress. She is known in all the capitals of Europe but always prefers an American engagement. She says the American audiences are quick to appreciate improvement and to reward it with applause. It seems a far cry from Nellie Mitchell the little shy Australian girl to Madame Melba the great prima donna, but the distance has been covered by pluck, genius, hard work and perseverance. It is a life that teaches a lesson.

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CURRENT TOPICS IN AMERICAN HISTORY.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



THE COLUMBIA.

GREAT as is the satisfaction of the outcome of the International yacht race and the successful runs of the American yacht *Columbia*, probably for the first time in the history of these yacht races there is something of a real regret that the British challenger was not able to "lift" the cup and carry it back to England. This spirit arose from a feeling of fair-play and true sportsmanship that is highly creditable to the American people, and is partly, too, a tribute to the challenger, Sir Thomas Lipton, as a gentleman sportsman.

The *Shamrock*, an Irish yacht of Fife's best design was in lines an American model and was an improvement on the *Defender*. For several days it was so calm that every attempt to race was baffled but the *Shamrock* apparently showed to better advantage. In the first race in light winds the *Columbia* won after a close race. In the second, the *Shamrock* was disabled but owing to an iron-clad agreement the *Columbia* sailed over the course alone taking the race. The third and last race was a decisive trial which so showed the Yankee yacht's superiority that there could be no possible question of the fairness of the outcome.

Sir Thomas Lipton, the challenger, is a self-made man, who by his own brightness and perseverance has made himself wealthy and respected. His conduct in the races has been exceedingly fair and courteous and nothing has happened to mar the good feeling on both sides. A great improvement was noticeable in this race by the government keeping the course clear and preventing any interference by excursion steamers; a thing that has caused much annoyance and many charges of unfairness in former races. The patrol fleet was under command of "Fighting Bob" Evans, who enforced strict discipline.

The appointment of Archbishop Chappelle as Papal Legate to the Philippines and his official recognition by the United States is believed to be a step which will greatly assist in the pacification of the islands. As is well known the Catholics hold vast possessions in the archipelago, and while the Filipinos are generally of that religion there has been much feeling against the encroachments of the various orders of priests. This was one of the most prominent causes of the insurrections under the Spanish rule. Notwithstanding this the Filipinos are good Catholics generally speaking, and it is thought Father Chappelle will have great influence with them.



ARCHBISHOP CHAPPELLE.

The Papal Delegate will do the following things with the sanction of the United States Government: He will call a conference of the priesthood of the islands to be presided over by the Archbishop of Manila and will inform that conference that it is not the intention of the United States Government to seize the church property or prevent the free exercise of the Catholic religion.

He will show them that under the republican form of government in the United States there is the widest possible latitude of religious liberty. He will explain that the Catholic religion, under the sovereignty of the United States will have as much freedom of action and as much control over its parishioners as anywhere in the world, and that so far as the government is concerned there will be an absolute prohibition of interference in the affairs of the church.

Archbishop Chappelle will prove to the Filipino priests that opposition to the Government of the United States is unwise if that opposition grows from fear that the rights of the church are not to be respected, and that the Government of the American Republic is opposed to the religion which dominates the islands.

The Archbishop, accompanied by the best wishes of the President and the blessings of the Pope, is expected to remove much of the opposition of the revolutionists and to impress upon the people of the Philippines the fact that loyalty to the United States is not incompatible with devotion to the church, which is so highly respected in the United States.

The rainy season in the Philippines is practically over and the campaign will soon be opened. Already there have been several advances made into the interior, which seem to have been in the nature of preliminary expeditions. These while successful have accomplished no particular victory and have been attended with more or less casualties. Among those killed was Major Guy Howard, a son of Major-General O. O. Howard, retired. Major Howard lived formerly in Augusta, Maine, but has been in the regular army from boyhood.

The complaints against Gen. Otis continue to grow instead of diminishing and hardly a day passes in which some paper does not bring out some new story of incompetency. Admiral Dewey plainly states that "he has too many irons in the fire," and seems to be unwilling to have others share in military or civil honors in the East. Hardly a word is raised in his defence. COMFORT believes in fair play; but if Gen. Otis is as incompetent as pictured, and if he be simply a political appointment, the greatest service the President can do the country is to promptly remove him and appoint a commander who will have the confidence of the country.

It is rather hard to get at the true state of affairs at present as the Philippine question has been brought into politics in the various state campaigns. The President in his Western trip come out boldly for complete subjugation; while the opposition raised the cry of "Imperialism" and "Militaryism." The real questions involved were hidden under cries intended to arouse prejudices rather than to appeal to calm judgment. It is noticeable that those that attack expansion seldom venture to say what their own remedy would be, if in power. It was Mr. Blaine who once pointed out the freedom from responsibility enjoyed by the oppositions. How much easier to be a destructive than a constructive statesman.

Brigadier Gen. Guy C. Henry died last month in New York City, of pneumonia. In his death the country has met with a great loss. It will be remembered that he successfully served until recently as the military governor of Porto Rico, which brought him before the public conspicuously. He was essentially a fighting officer and beloved by all who met him, while his soldiers fairly worshiped him. His military career was an enviable one. He graduated at West Point and immediately entered active service at the beginning of the Civil War. Serving with great distinction he was the recipient of many honors and promotions. At the close of the war he was transferred to the Indian country where he served with equal valor against the Sioux and Cheyennes. His tireless work caused the aborigines to name him "Fighting Guy," which sobriquet followed him to his death.



GEN. GUY C. HENRY.

In one of the bitterest winters he pursued the marching redskins across the Canada line and administered the severest defeat the redmen had received for years, but unfortunately froze his hands and feet in the exposure and was crippled for life. In one campaign he was shot through the nose and his left eye was destroyed, but he coolly said: "Never mind, that's what we are here for." His career as an Indian fighter reads like a romance.

In the Spanish War he was appointed a Brigadier General, being immediately after appointed a Major General of Volunteers. Soon after he was made Governor General of Porto Rico, from which post he was obliged to resign on account of ill health, but not before he had secured the love of the people to a remarkable degree. At the time of his death he had just been appointed to command the Department of the Missouri with headquarters at Omaha.

The Philippine commission has been holding sessions in Washington and recently brought out a preliminary report to the President, which was immediately given to the country. It is a clear-cut, forcible document and thoroughly upholds the course of the government in carrying on the present war. It takes the same position that has been taken by the administration; that the insurgents must be suppressed with force and that when peace comes, Congress will settle the future course of the islands. The commission distinctly urged that the United States continues holding the islands until the inhabitants are capable of self-government. The commission have been in the islands and made a study of the question. This report is signed by all, and as Admiral Dewey is one of them it will have great weight in influencing the average citizen.

Speaking of Admiral Dewey reminds COMFORT that his physicians have asked him not to continue his receptions, as it is too much strain. At the same time the whole country congratulates him on the announcement of his marriage to Mrs. Hazen, the widow of the late Gen. Hazen of the army.

The recent reverses to the British army in South Africa have served to show emphatically how closely the two countries have united in their aims and lives. When all Europe was meditating an attack upon America in the recent Spanish War, England's friendship saved us from attack. To-day, while engaged in a fearful and bloody contest, England finds herself flouted by every European nation while the United States boldly repays the debt of friendship. With scarcely an exception the American press is showing by friendly voice how much this country appreciates that she was our friend in need a year ago.

Another source of International irritation has disappeared by the agreement of the two nations on a temporary boundary between Canada and Alaska. By the *modus vivendi* we practically hold all we have claimed as ours, while we allow for the present the use of a seaport to Canada, under her own flag. This agreement prevents further discussion until both nations have more time to consider the question or are ready to submit the whole question to arbitration. Unless the unexpected should happen, the vexed question of what is the real boundary will be fixed by a proper tribunal satisfactory to both powers.

We regret to notice the critical illness of Garret A. Hobart, the Vice President of the United States, who for several months has been ill at his home in New Jersey. As is the case with most public men when taken with any organic or serious diseases, the actual facts were kept from the public and friends concealed the real condition. While it was generally believed that Mr. Hobart must be a sick man, the public generally was in doubt until his law partner announced that there was no use in concealing the matter further, that he was dangerously ill and never would be a well man. Even now the public does not know exactly what the matter is, but it is a generally understood fact that he is not under any circumstances to resume public life; and the constant bulletins from his bedside indicate that the condition is more serious than is generally supposed. Mr. Hobart was born in 1844 and has served in many capacities in a public way besides amassing a large fortune through his business enterprise. He was elected a member of the National Committee for the Republicans in 1884 and served continuously on that committee until 1896 when he was elected Vice President; he took the office the following March. Mr. Hobart being incapacitated for public duty, Senator Frye of Maine, who is the President pro tempore of the Senate will act as presiding officer of that body until March 4th, 1901, when a new Vice President will be inaugurated. Mr. Frye is an able man who has had a distinguished career in public life, and was recently a member of the Commission at Paris which settled the details of peace in the Spanish War. He is a brilliant speaker, with much energy and force of character and sound judgment. He is very popular with his colleagues and is considered a very able presiding officer.



VICE PRESIDENT GARRET A. HOBART.

The by or off year elections in the several states this year were generally for inconsequential offices, but owing to the nearness of the national political campaigns of 1900 much interest was centered in them toward the last as they became largely personal in the general canvass. The administration sought to have its general policy upheld, while on the democratic side Mr. Bryan attacked the administration and carried on a canvass largely relative to his political chances in the forthcoming Democratic National Convention.

For this reason the canvass in Ohio and Nebraska became largely a personal matter, and in each state the son was upheld, Ohio giving a republican majority of about 50,000 while Nebraska went fusion for Bryan's ticket. In the various states local matters entered largely into the canvass, so that the result as a whole was not clear. In New York, the city went democratic for Tammany Hall administration heavily, but republican gains were made throughout the state. Maryland, naturally a democratic state which recently has been republican, after a close contest was carried strongly for the democrats. There was a bitter factional fight in the republican party which lost them any hope of carrying the state, and at the same time democratic admirers of Mr. Arthur P. Gorman who would like to see him named for the presidency realized that his only hope was in a great democratic success in his own state, which was given. Other states showed strong republican majorities, and generally where the direct question was raised as to the foreign policy of the government. In Kentucky there was a three sided fight, which at the time of the writing of this article was in doubt and claimed by all sides. The result was largely due to a fight for the control of the democratic party within its own lines, as Kentucky is naturally a democratic state although lately republican. By the time this paper is printed, our readers will fully know the result in the state that is now doubtful.

TESTIMONY POURS IN!

Proving the Value of the Slocum System in

Consumption, Asthma, Weak Lungs, Catarrh, La Grippe and Wasting Diseases.

FREE OFFER TO OUR READERS.

From all parts of the country proof comes daily which shows that the Slocum system of treatment is doing a grand work in tens of thousands of homes where sickness and suffering had previously held victims in an iron grasp.

Consumption—that arch enemy of mankind—has carried away more people than all other diseases combined since the world began. Its ravages have been felt in every grade and walk in life, and yet all the money in the world a few years back could not stay this grim monster of death!

It remained for that medical genius and laboratory expert, Dr. T. A. Slocum, to solve the problem of destroying the consumptive bacilli. Since the day he began sending out his discoveries he has been the sole means of saving more than 80,000 people from a consumptive's grave.

Here is some of the latest evidence, which breathes of health and new life to all who heed it:

MR. WM. H. EPPS, South Boston, Va., writes:

"I suffered from weak lungs for two years and had despaired of relief. I rapidly lost flesh and became very weak. I employed a well-known doctor and he failed to do me any good. I then sent for another doctor, with no better results, and finally began to take several remedies for consumption, but all to no purpose. Hearing of Dr. Slocum's wonderful discoveries I sent for a full course of his remedies and the effect was magical. I continued the treatment faithfully and was cured. It is a wonderful blessing to humanity."

MR. RICHARD BLANK, Allegheny City, Pa., writes:

"I was a chronic sufferer for two years from catarrh of the head. Every time I got cold I suffered fearfully. My doctor could only give me temporary relief, but the Slocum treatment cured me in seven weeks."

These are merely samples of thousands. The Slocum treatment is a positive and masterly cure for all diseases where indicated. It heals raw mucous surfaces, restores the diseased tissues and builds flesh and strength.

This great system of medicine consists of four separate preparations, to be used together, and will banish every complication found in consumption, la grippe and its after effects, catarrh, bronchitis, lung debility, loss of strength, wasting away, etc.

Determined to prove the merits of his discoveries, Dr. Slocum again offers for a limited time his

FREE TREATMENT

to all sufferers who write. Simply send your express and post office addresses to Dr. T. A. Slocum, 98 Pine Street, New York, stating that you read the offer in COMFORT, and he will promptly send a full course **FREE** Treatment fresh from his laboratories.

EDITOR'S NOTE.—This splendid Free Offer to our readers is genuine, and we hope every sufferer will write the Doctor at once, and also request all suffering friends to do the same.

Six Steel Pens Free.

Millions of people use steel pens and we have bought an immense lot which we want to introduce into new families. Will send six of different kinds, fine, coarse and medium, to all who send two cents for mailing expenses. Lane & Co., Augusta, Maine.

Tobacco Cure

A new remedy has been discovered that is odorless and tasteless can be mixed with coffee or food and when taken into the system a man cannot use tobacco in any form. It will cure even the confirmed cigarette fiend and is a God-send to mothers who have growing boys addicted to the smoking of cigarettes. A free trial package of the remedy will be mailed prepaid upon application to Rogers Drug & Chemical Co., 553 Fifth & Race Sts., Cincinnati, Ohio. This will help any woman to solve the problem of curing her husband, son or brother of a habit that undermines the health leaving the body susceptible to numerous lingering and dangerous diseases.

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MEN or WOMEN to represent us in their own state. Your duties to take charge of solicitors and attend to collections. **NO INVESTMENT REQUIRED.** Send stamp for Application Blank. **CO-OPERATIVE CO.**, 35 Star Bldg. CHICAGO.



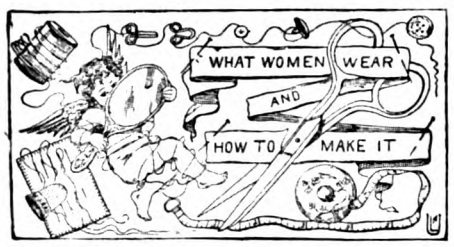
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A Ten Thousand Dollar Check

signed with **The New Idea Pencil** will be cashed as quickly as though pen and ink was used. **This Indelible up-to-date** article is a polished automatic pencil always ready for use and with the point protected to prevent breakage. Answers every purpose of ordinary pencil; but, having indelible lead, is perfect substitute for pen and ink or fountain pen. Carried in the pocket same as stylograph and always ready to sign checks, receipts or any papers where you want signature in ink. **Marks linen and clothing.** No stains or blots; also the best pencil in the world for women or schoolchildren. The ideal pencil for home or all around use and the 20th century idea of combined pencil and ink together. As hundreds will be sold after introducing, we send one free if you will send six cents to pay mailing and for a three months' trial subscription to our fine monthly story paper now going into 160,000 new homes. Send 25 cents for a year's subscription and we will send half a dozen pencils free, or for 50 cents will send two years' subscription and twelve pencils. You can make more than one hundred per cent. profit selling them. **Address SUNSHINE, Augusta, Maine.**





WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



IT is a constant matter of wonder to me how so many women manage to keep youthful to the extent that they are often thought to be one-half their age. A noted physician declares it is only a matter of a few years when grim old Father Time will be cheated of his just dues and there will be no more old age, faded faces, or whitened locks. Every one will have perennial youth and can shake their finger at the years as they approach, and all through a certain curious little particle of a goat's anatomy called the lymph. If this proves true the man who made the discovery should have a monument of everlasting material tall enough to touch the skies. But enough of sermonizing; every one loves a pretty woman and I wish beauty had been every woman's dower.

New York maidens, who are always to the fore, are now wearing an exceedingly smart waist made of French flannel in the softest of pretty colors, among which violet predominates, some polka-dotted and some plain. These



A STYLISH STREET COSTUME.

waists of flannel are really ousting those of silk and, as a change at least, are really prettier and so nicely suited to the season. They are made, usually, in Spencer fashion, the sleeves small and finished with a tiny flaring cuff, the front closed with small silver or brass buttons. Sometimes the back has a yoke just by way of variation. Another smart little garment Gotham maidens are wearing is a jacket of silk, in black of course, made in a variety of fanciful styles. A very smart little one is tight-fitting, with all its seams trimmed with flat folds, its edges scalloped and its revers covered flatly with creamy lace. Another is in Eton style, lined with white satin and provided with a dainty vest made in blouse fashion, of pinkish cream satin, covered with creamy lace, caught in at the waist with a gorgeous jeweled buckle. This style of coat adapts itself readily to either dressy or regular wear, being easily made very elaborate, or as sober as you could wish.



OF TAN MELTON.

It is most fortunate that the Eton jacket and its various modifications continues to be fashionable. It is a style becoming to almost all figures and can be made straight around or drooping in the front as may prove most becoming. If the revers are rounded the collar should be also, of course. As an odd garment to wear with various skirts, at this season especially, such a little jacket is exceedingly useful. A pretty little coat in black broadcloth has rounded revers and slightly rounded fronts and is slashed up the middle of the back. It is faced with broadcloth and has a band edging it, stitched with white. The sleeves are faced with white satin, covered with Irish lace. When these jackets are lined with color the revers should be faced with panne velvet of the same shade.

Fashions for little folks follow very closely in the wake of their elders. When mammas are wearing their skirts wide and flaring their small daughters copy them. When tight fitting skirts are in vogue for the grown-ups, then snug little circular skirts are worn by the small ladies. Every change in modes sees this tendency to follow and is this season shown in the tunic, flounce, collar-cape, chemisette and rever. Such a smart little frock for a miss of twelve is made up in plaid poplin, the squares very large; yellow, a pale, soft tone predominating, barred off with pale grays, violets and golden brown. The circular skirt is perfectly plain and is faced to the knees with corn yellow satin. The smart little bodice has a coat back fitting the figure easily, the scallops bound with yellow velvet. The guimpe and blouse front is of pale yellow crepe de chine, set off by rows of narrow black velvet ribbon.

A beautiful little party frock for a girl of eight years has a yoke of dead white crepe laid in cross folds, with neck band to match, the popular broad line across the shoulders being exaggerated greatly. The yoke is fastened at the back with pretty coral buttons. Then the bodice proper, being really decollette, is seemingly held on by straps passing over the yoke across the shoulders. A ruffle or lace bertha is required as a finish at the top of the bodice.



AN EVENING BODICE.

In the sketch a pretty bodice for a "grown-up" is shown with the little velvet shoulder strap as an appendage. The material is rose-pink satin, covered with lines of the same shade, the velvet bands over the arm and down the front of the bodice being black, while jet is used to form the squares. The smart little walking coat is in tan melton, very snug fitting and jaunty, with its front closed in large scallops, each one sporting a handsome button. The flaring collar is faced with mauve panne velvet, overlaid with creamy Irish lace.

The stylish street model picture is made up in leaf brown satin broadcloth, a thin quality, all the edges set off with stitched bands of the cloth.

Fur hats are, they tell me, to be much worn. Made up ones, only lacking a slight trimming, are already shown in the shops and are most tempting to women whose fingers are deft at adding the finishing touches. Large toques made of soft felt are extremely smart and up to date and are bound to be popular because so durable. Their trimming usually consists of a ducks' breast, or painted velvet wings. Beautiful white plumes for hats are made entirely of white tulle arranged in queer little fleecy frills as feathery as possible. They are especially elegant on hats of fur or velvet.

Hats made entirely of tulle are to the fore for smart winter wear, inappropriate as they may seem.

QUEER FEET.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



THE creatures that live in the water have very queer feet. The Razor Shell, a mollusk with a most *handy foot*, if one may use such an expression, is able to change it at his will into a shape like a bell-clapper and use it to hold on firmly to a rock like a grappling-hook, or thrust it out like a tongue, and bore into the sand with it for food. There is another mollusk of the bivalve family that can not only bore with his foot and swim with it like a fish, and leap from rock to rock with it like a jumping pole, but he also uses it to spin the fine thread with which he anchors himself after his journey is done. Even the stupid-looking crabs and lobsters can do many of these things with their feet.

They have their feet in very odd places. Some water creatures use them as wings; with others they are arranged around their heads in a circle like a crown; and some are "belly-footed," or have one flat foot under the body. This single foot wears a horny plate or shoe for protection. The one-footed mollusks have some other very eccentric arrangements, as for instance, teeth in their stomachs and on their tongues, and eyes at the ends of their fingers! The Hermit crab steals a shell and then uses its foot as a door to close its ill-gotten house.

Some water creatures are called "jaw-footed," because they grasp the thing they want so strongly with their feet and will not let go. Others, having fastened their feet to a rock, or fixed object, contract them and so slowly push themselves along. But a much prettier way is to row themselves with their feet for oars, just as the graceful Argonaut uses his arms. The ocean snail floats his dainty raft of eggs by means of his one foot, for the raft is filled with air and consequently very light in weight.

The starfish have a great many little feet with which they easily walk over the bottom of the sea. As these feet are made like hollow tubes they can also be used as pumps and so pump up food at need. The sea urchins are very well supplied for they not only have the tube-feet but crutches or spines, with which they dig out hollow places in the sand and they play around these until a silly mollusk ventures within reach of the feet and is caught in a twinkling! Some starfish have such delicate, fine little tubes for feet that they are called *hair-footed*, and only think, they carry inside of these, fairy-like fishing lines and hooks that may be cast out and drawn up at pleasure.

There are some pretty sea-creatures that play they are a flower garden in the blue waters. One jelly-like animal has feet like branching roots; the Medusa—oh, how lovely and gay it is, shining like flame or glistening in blue and silver!—has tentacles which I suppose may be reckoned either as fingers or toes in sea-creatures whose parts get strangely mixed, and these are shaped like leaves. They shake and quiver in the water like leaves of trees in *their* ocean of air, but they are also paddles to move along the waves and lassoos to catch their prey. There are sharp, needle-like thorns or spines on these curious leaves and they are sometimes poisonous as well. The polypus are prettier, for their tentacles when they open, are like flowers themselves. Would they not be charming playfellows down in the old Sea's pleasure ground?

CONSUMPTION CURED.

An old physician, retired from practice, had placed in his hands by an East India missionary the formula of a simple vegetable remedy for the speedy and permanent cure of Consumption, Bronchitis, Catarrh, Asthma and all Throat and Lung Affections; also a positive and radical cure for Nervous Debility and all Nervous Complaints. Having tested its wonderful curative powers in thousands of cases, and desiring to relieve human suffering, I will send free of charge to all who wish it, this recipe, in German, French or English, with full directions for preparing and using. Sent by mail, by addressing, with stamp, naming this paper, W. A. NOYES, 820 *Powers' Block, Rochester, N. Y.*

PIN PLEASURE.

Two Beauty or Dress pins for ladies' and children's wear for only **5 cents**, with our big bargain book. Very handsome and desirable articles. Address, Sunshine, Augusta, Maine.

SEND NO MONEY

Only $2.98 for this Cape



but just send us your name, address, number of the garment desired and your measurements and we will forward same to your nearest express office C. O. D., with the privilege of examination. You may examine and try the garment on before you pay the express agent our special advertised price and charges.

Write to-day for our free Catalogue No. 65.

Only $4.48 for this Cape

No. 420

No. 420. This ladies' double cape is made of a good quality black boucle cloth, 27 inches long, with an extremely full sweep, upper cape and large storm collar edged with black thibet fur, tastefully trimmed with black mohair and serpentine braid. Truly an exceptional value at **$2.98**

No. 545

No. 545. Ladies' plush cape, of fine silk seal plush, elaborately braided with black mohair braid and beaded with cut jets, deep storm collar and front edged with black thibet fur, lined with black Italienne, is cut in four gores, 24 inches long **$4.48**

No. 546. Same as No. 545, 27 inches long. Price **$4.98**

No. 547. Same as No. 545, 30 inches long. Price, **$5.48**

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TRIAL FREE. Quickly, Cheaply, Surely, even after everything else has failed.



No publicity, no medicine, NO INTERNAL SUPPORT, nothing objectionable. Makes weak women well. Makes all women graceful. Brings health, strength, comfort, graceful poise, upright carriage, perfect freedom for all exercise. A priceless boon to the feeble woman. A benefit to all women. INVALUABLE TO THE PROSPECTIVE MOTHER. Worn with any dress, with or without corset. Why suffer when health and comfort are so easily obtained? The following is one of more than 15,000 similar letters:

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I had suffered 12 years from falling womb, constipation, backache, sleepless nights, headache, nervousness, and general weakness all over. Since wearing your Brace 5 months, I thank God and you that I have new life all through me; can do two days work in one; no more terrible backache—all gone; I sleep all night long; my nerves are wonderfully strengthened; my memory is better than it has been for years; in fact I feel as young as ever.

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Musical Instruments of all Kinds

fine toned and of beautiful construction, workmanship and finish. Shipped direct from factory at wholesale prices C. O. D. with privilege of examination. We have the best for the least money. A sweet toned Mandolin, finely finished in mahogany and maple, 9 ribs, **$4.00**, dealers ask $8.00; high grade Guitar **$2.90**, worth $6.00; Stradivarius Model Violin, case and full outfit, **$3.15** equal to any sold at $6.50; Banjos **$1.25** and up; Graphophones **$5** and up.



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30c. 1-2 DOZ. Best quality, latest style as cut shows

Solid silver-plated tea spoons, guaranteed ten years, postpaid, for only 30cts. Table spoons same quality and style, 60c. ½ doz. E. H EAST & Co., 177 E. 40th st., Chicago



To Ladies and Girls for **One Day's Work.**

This beautiful SOLID GOLD plated or Steel Dog Chain Bracelet, by selling 12 pkg. XXX Bluing at 10c per pkg. Every pkg. makes 50c worth of Bluing. You can have choice of many other valuable premiums; solid gold rings, cameos, tea sets, musical instruments, bicycles, etc. We ask no money in advance; send name and address; we will forward Bluing and premium list prepaid. When Bluing is sold, send the money and select your premium. An honest offer by a reliable house; goods not sold may be returned. Write to-day. BROCKSTEDT MERCANTILE HOUSE, 806 N. Bdwy, B. 5. St. Louis, Mo.

A Gold-Lined Silver Dish FREE!



To introduce our new line of **Quadruple Plated Silverware** we will for 30 days send either one of these beautiful **gold lined fluted top Quadruple Plated Silver dishes FREE** to any one sending a club of two yearly subscribers to SUNSHINE at 25c each, or send both dishes, all charges paid, for a club of three at 25c. each. These goods are made up in the latest 1899 style, are guaranteed to wear well, as they are the best quadruple plate. The very lowest store price of either article is not less than $1.00 or $1.50, and as these beautiful articles can be used for all sorts of eatables either on dining or side tables, they make invaluable household necessities as well as beautiful ornaments. We will for a short time send either style dish free to all who send 37c, for a year's subscription or will send both dishes, all charges paid, if you remit 62c. for a two years' subscription to SUNSHINE, the great home monthly. Don't delay but send at once. We can quote you wholesale rates on our new Premium goods that will get you rich. Address **SUNSHINE, Augusta, Maine.**



The Victoria Stamping Outfit.

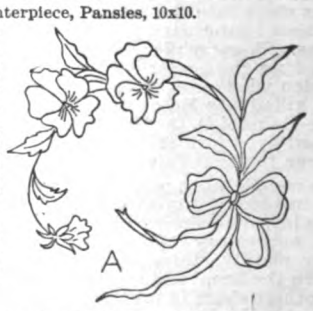
More Artistic Patterns for the Money than were ever Dreamed of.



It has been our special pleasure to select designs for this collection for our artistic friends. Illustration A shows a floral and ribbon design which can be used for almost anything the dainty worker has use for. The flowers are best executed in Kensington stitch, the ribbon may be either simple outline, outline filled in with feather, herring-bone or cat stitch, or, what is still more effective, the long and short stitch. Illustration B is a dainty little design for monograms or what-nots.

Note the sizes of the designs named below and the number of sheets of patterns in this outfit.

1 Very Handsome Centerpiece of Carnations, 17x17 inches.
1 Pretty Corner-piece of Pansies and Leaves, 6x6 inches.
1 Design of Strawberries and Leaves for Doily, 5½x6½.
1 Design Orchid and Leaves for Scarf Corner, 6½x10.
1 Clover Design for Doily.
1 Design for Baby's Bib, Rosebuds and word Baby, 4x4.
1 Design for Cheese Doily, 3½x6.
1 Design for Souvenir Case with Motto, 5½x6.
1 Design for Shoe Bag, 5x10.
1 Design for Shaving Bag with Motto, 6x6.
4 Fruit Designs for Fruit Plate Doilies, 3½x3½.
1 Design for Carving Cloth, 11½x15½.
1 Design for Tumbler Doily, 4x4.
1 Pretty Corner Design for Tea-cloth, Jewel Work, 9x9.
1 Design for Table Doily, 8x8.
1 Design for Water Bottle Doily, 6x6.
4 Designs for Butter Plate Doilies, 3½x3½.
1 Cut Work Doily Design, 5x5.
1 Very Pretty Design for Corner, Battenberg Work, 7x7.
1 Design for Border with Corner, 5x16.
1 Floral Corner Geranium, 6½x6½.
1 Design Water Lily for Doily.
1 Floral Wreath for Monogram or Handkerchief Case, 5x5.
1 Design for Tray Cloth, 7x15.
1 Design for Centerpiece, Maidenhair Ferns, 9½x9½.
1 Rosebud Doily, 7½x7½.
1 Alphabet for Towels or Table Linen, 1½ inches high.
1 Design Centerpiece, Pansies, 10x10.
1 Pansy Doily, 6½x6½.
1 Alphabet for Handkerchiefs or Fine Linen, 1 inch high.
1 Border for Flannel Work, 3½ inches wide, and 29 other designs for embroidery of every description too numerous to mention here.



The patterns are made of linen bond paper, and consist of 9 sheets of patterns, each sheet 14x22 inches in size. As good as can be made.

With each outfit we send full instructions for doing the stamping, and one piece of EUREKA COMPOUND, enabling anyone to do permanent stamping, instantly, without heat or trouble. Your money back if you want it, but no one ever does.

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EDITOR'S NOTE. The following rules govern the publication of matter in this department.

Contributors must without exception be regular subscribers to Comfort, and every contribution must bear the writer's own name and post-office address in full.

Original letters only, which deal with matters of general interest, will be published. They must be as brief, plain and correct as the writers can make them, and may vary in length from one hundred to four hundred words. Only letters of exceptional merit and interest may reach six hundred and fifty words. Contributors must write on one side of the paper only.

$10 CASH PRIZES $10.

The following cash prizes will be paid monthly:

1st.	For the best original letter	$3.00
2nd.	" " second best original letter	2.50
3rd.	" " third " " "	2.00
4th.	" " fourth " " "	1.50
5th.	" " fifth " " "	1.00

Competitors for these monthly cash prizes must *comply with all the above rules*, and in addition must bring at least one new Cousin into the COMFORT circle; that is, they must send one new subscriber with each letter, together with 50 cents for a yearly subscription.

These cash prizes will be announced monthly in this department.

No premiums will be given for subscriptions sent in under this Prize Offer.

All communications must be addressed to Aunt Minerva, care of COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

CASH PRIZE WINNERS.

Maud B. Rodgers,	**$3.00**
Charles C. Powell,	**2.50**
H. Herbert Hall,	**2.00**
Mabel E. James,	**1.50**
J. Mayne Baltimore,	**1.00**

DEAR NIECES AND NEPHEWS:

Again the happy holiday season is upon us, and probably all my nieces and nephews are too much engrossed in planning glad surprises for others, and in solving the problem of making two dollars do the work of five, to have much time for reading this month; so I will make my remarks exceedingly brief. I shall only take space to beg of you not to make "duty presents." Do not give simply because some one has given to you and you feel obliged to pay the debt. Do not give cheap trifles to those who cannot afford to give much to you, and reserve your handsome gifts for those who will send you expensive ones in return. This is the season for *giving*, not for barter and trade, and to make it truly Christmas we must give, hoping for nothing again. So do, my dear friends, and may the very spirit of Christmas be in your hearts, and may you have a joyful season; and, in the words of Tiny Tim, God bless us, every one.

Our first letter this month takes us quite to the other side of the country from the home of COMFORT, and tells us of the Government reservation near the beautiful old city of Monterey.

"One of the finest pieces of property owned by the United States is the Government reservation at Monterey. That so vast a tract of land should lie wild and uninhabited almost within the boundaries of the old Spanish capital, at first seems strange, but upon looking around, when one sees how completely it overlooks the bay and the surrounding country, it is easy to understand why it is thus held. The reservation lies between Monterey and Pacific Grove, and rises from close proximity to the bay to a commanding height. It is heavily wooded with the beautiful native pines and oaks and it is here, among these many trees, that the large yellow violet and the tall, delicate calachortus grow in such profusion. Countless birds live here and during the summer the wild notes of quail sound constantly in the sweet seclusion, for at this time they are busily engaged raising their young.

"Many trails lead in as many different ways through the trees but none show the wear of sightseers so much as does the path leading up to the old barracks and cannon. Perhaps this trail is more frequented than it would be did it not also lead to the deserted cabin of the old man who for years guarded the reservation and who died suddenly, leaving the impression that he had left treasure buried somewhere just without his cabin. The wide, deep holes dug about these walls testify to the faith many have had and still have in this imaginary story.



FATHER JUNIPER SERRA.

"In the most beautiful spot of the whole reservation, where the earliest and latest sunshine falls, is the burial place of some of our soldiers. Perhaps no other view in the world is grander than the one received standing beside this quiet little acre, and no soldier ever had a fairer resting place. Turning eastward one looks far across the quiet waters of the bay, with its many white-sailed fishing boats, to the mountains surrounding it, the vast evergreen gardens of the Hotel Del Monte and the rolling, wooded hills behind them. A heavy iron and granite fence surrounds this government cemetery and each Memorial Day so richly is it filled with all kinds of southern flowers that they remain here, although dried and faded, all the year.

"A little distance from here stands the imposing monument erected to the memory of Juniper Serra, the founder of the principal missions of California, among them being the beautiful Carmelo Mission at Monterey. The monument stands upon elevated ground, so close to the water that it is within calling distance of the quiet old wharf, and the shapely hands of the sculptured priest are extended as though silently bestowing a blessing upon all those who enter in or depart from this sunlit harbor."

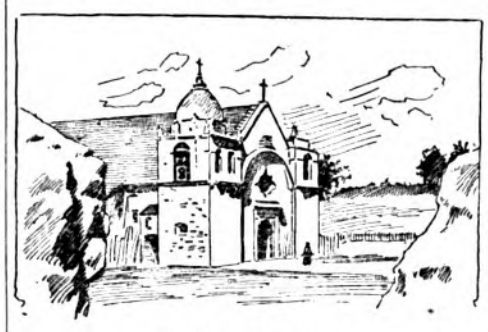
MAUD B. RODGERS, Menlo Park, California.

A description of a country wedding which comes to me from Shiloh, Georgia, hardly seems to me genuine, so I must decline to print it. I fear, too, that our Georgia cousins would resent seeing such a picture of their people in print.

Hugh Clark, of Taylor, Texas, sends us a description of a contest between a cowboy and a steer, but as we have lately published a similar account I can only thank him for his letter.

Mrs. Elva Lupher, of Wellington, Kansas, sends us a very interesting letter on the opening up of a new country in Oklahoma, which I am sorry to say I cannot use for the same reason—we have recently had very similar descriptions.

Charles Martin, of Santa Ana, Texas, sends us a letter for which I can only thank him, as its matter is hardly suited to our page.



OLD CARMELO MISSION.

While we are upon the subject of reservations let us go down into Arizona and watch an Indian dance upon a reservation there.

"Little did I dream what the next forty-eight hours would bring me in the way of Indian experience when I left Fort Grant for duty at the Indian Agency and Military Post of San Carlos, Arizona.

"Forty miles before reaching our destination large numbers of Indian men, women and children climbed upon our train and settled themselves in every vacant space on the box and flat cars which were in front of the regular passenger coaches; and as we pulled out of Geronimo the train presented one of the most picturesque scenes I ever witnessed. The freight and flat cars were alive with Indians in all their gaudy colors, red, of course, predominating. I was told that we were near the San Carlos Indian Reservation, and that the Indians had the right, for thirty years, to ride upon the cars whenever and wherever they desired as part compensation for allowing the construction of the railroad through their reservation to the mining camp of Globe; and also that the issue of beef to the Indians was to take place at the agency on the following morning.

"Arrived at San Carlos, as far as the eye could see were the small, improvised camps for the use of the Indians for the one night which they were to remain at the agency, intermingled with the bright colored dresses of the squaws. I noticed that the squaws and girls tramped about afoot, carrying their papooses strapped to their backs, and carrying also whatever other luggage there was in the party, while the men rode their ponies and carried nothing.

"While I was gazing at the Indians I heard some one say: 'Are you going to the Devil's dance tonight?' and, turning, saw around me some of Uncle Sam's boys in blue. They explained that a great Devil's dance was to take place there among the Indians that night and that this dance was performed for the purpose of frightening away the Devil when he had, through his evil spirits, caused things to go wrong in the tribe.

"After dark the weird, monotonous beating of the tom toms could be heard, and I soon found my way to the brow of the hill overlooking the dancing ground. Below us, about a quarter of a mile away, was a great fire of blazing logs, around which was an ever increasing circle of Indian men and boys and a little to one side of the fire was a compact mass of Indians squatted in a circle around the musicians, who were chanting an unintelligible song, which at times excited with its wildness, then died away gradually to a low, long monotone, to be again succeeded by the wild chant. The squaws and girls were not yet visible. After descending to the circle I found that there were two classes of musical instruments, one a very hard, dry cowhide upon which several men were beating to keep time with the tom toms; these were nothing more than skins tightly stretched over pails, and upon them the musicians beat in a peculiar manner with strangely constructed little sticks. The chanting blended with the music in an indescribable way.

"Soon great numbers of squaws and girls seated themselves outside of the main circle, and now all was expectation and many were the glances cast toward the large group of tepees on a hill close by, from which the dancers were to come. In a short time we heard the tinkling of the little bells and a peculiar half-whistling, half-cooing sound as the great circle parted and five lithe young Indian men trotted into it one behind another. Then bedlam seemed to be let loose. The poor old cowhide fairly leaped from the ground under the frantic blows dealt upon it, while the dancers, in their paint and bells and great, grotesque head-dresses and masks, made a most weird and uncanny sight as they whirled this way and that, always keeping time with their contortions and with that peculiar cooing noise, to the music and chanting, and ever moving in perfect accord with each other.

"When it seemed as though the dancers must fall from utter exhaustion they suddenly uttered a shrill cry and darted out into the darkness as mysteriously as they came, their places being supplied in a few minutes by others similarly attired. By this time soldiers, citizens and Indians were intermingled in the great circle and the dance grew wilder, the music louder, and even the stolid squaws had become excited and had moved up close to the great campfire.

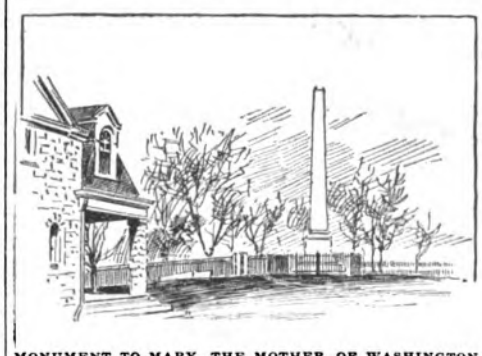
"Suddenly the dancers shot out into the darkness and the Devil Dance was ended."

CHARLES C. POWELL, San Carlos, Arizona.

Now we will travel east and visit the grave of "Mary, the Mother of Washington."

"Mary, the mother of Washington, selected for the place of her burial a spot on Kenmore land, close by a rocky crag and chasm which she preferred because, as she declared, it could never be cultivated. Here her remains lie, and the spot is marked by a monument worthy, by its massive foundation of granite, and its simplicity, stateliness and beauty, to preserve the memory of her who gave birth to our immortal Washington, and who by her own virtues and discipline contributed so powerfully to make him what he was.

"Prior to the year 1833, one single person, Silas E. Burroughs, a wealthy merchant of New York, was the only one who came forward for a work which ought to have enlisted the hearts and substance of the whole United States. He volunteered to furnish all the needed money and means for erecting a suitable monument over the grave of Mary Washington. A plan of a very ornate and beautiful monument was selected, a competent architect engaged, and the work begun. In 1833 Andrew Jackson, President of the United States, attended by his Cabinet and others, came from Washington to Fredericksburg and the corner stone of the monument was laid, with imposing solemnities. The



MONUMENT TO MARY, THE MOTHER OF WASHINGTON.

work went on until the square body of the monument was completed, with its carved flutings and its polished marble pillars. Then came a financial disturbance with the re-election of President Jackson. Burroughs failed disastrously and the work on the monument stopped. Burroughs went to South America and other places, hoping to regain his fortune so as to complete his work. But money never came. The enormous rough marble plinth for the spire did come to the wharf in Fredericksburg, and by contract was moved to the site of the monument. It was deposited amid the weeds, shrubs, and rubbish near the unfinished structure, and there it remained for more than half a century. No stroke of sculptor's tool ever fell upon it.

"After the Civil war appeals were made to Congress to appropriate money to complete it or to build another monument in its place, but Congress would not move. Then the women of America took up the matter; a national association was formed, headed by the widow of Chief Justice Waite, and appeals were sent out. All the women in the country bearing the name of Mary, and all men interested were urged to give, and money poured into the treasury. A plan for a monument, solid, stately, yet graceful and beautiful was selected, approved, and the monument erected was on the site of the unfinished one which was removed, although its most graceful parts have been preserved.

"This monument was unveiled with imposing ceremonies on the 10th day of May, 1894, in the presence of the President and his Cabinet, Justices of the Supreme Court of the United States, and other high officials. On the front of the monument, in beautiful raised letters are the words 'Mary The Mother Of Washington'; and on the rear, cut in plain letters, are the words, 'Erected By Her Country-Women.' The monument is fifty-five feet high and cost sixteen thousand dollars, and is claimed to be the largest solid shaft in America. The grounds are beautiful and well kept, and resorted to by tourists from all parts of the world."

H. H. HALL, Nomini Grove, Va.

Ada Reed of Inglewood, Cal., sends us a description of an Indian scalp dance which she says she witnessed in Idaho; but as it is of the same nature as the Devil Dance of which a description is given this month and is, moreover, rather too blood-curdling for our page, I must content myself with returning thanks for it.

West again our fifth letter takes us, and lands us above the clouds, on the top of the lofty Mount St. Helena.

"Along the great Cascade range of mountains, in Washington and Oregon, are a number of lofty snow peaks which range in height from eight thousand to fourteen thousand feet above sea level. To ascend these snow mountains is attended with great labor, difficulties and peril, and in past years several lives have been lost in the attempt; but, despite the dangers and toil the most of the great snow peaks of the Cascades have been scaled by daring and intrepid mountain climbers. Every season parties are organized to climb these peaks, and in almost every instance they are successful. The purpose of the ascent is generally in the interest



SUMMIT OF MOUNT ST. HELENA.

of mountain science. Often the parties are mainly composed of scientific men, professors in colleges, etc., and by means of these excursions many valuable discoveries have been made.

"One of the loftiest and most imposing mountains of the Cascades is Mount St. Helena, whose altitude above tide water is nearly eleven thousand feet. This mountain is located in the very heart of the Cascade range, in Washington, seventy miles in a northeasterly direction from the city of Portland, Oregon. The ascent of this colossal peak is attended with great difficulties and no little peril. Recently a party was organized to make the ascent. Several days were required to reach the base of the mountain and to scale its rugged sides, but finally, late one afternoon, the party arrived safely at the summit. They were footsore and weary, and concluded to pass the night there. It was a long, cold, comfortless bivouac, but the view of the sunrise on the following morning was indescribably grand, and richly repaid them for the discomforts of the night as well as for the difficulties and dangers of the long, hard climb."

J. MAYNE BALTIMORE, Spokane, Washington.

The letter from which the following extracts were taken is very interesting, but it was far too long for me to print entire, yet I think my readers will enjoy the following extracts from it.

"The battlefield of Gettysburg covers an area of twenty-five square miles in and around the town of Gettysburg, and has been converted by the Government into a National park, every foot of which is historic. The town itself, a quiet place of four thousand inhabitants, is filled with marks of the great struggle which took place there. Trees riddled with bullets, houses with shattered walls, and monuments of every kind, show where the fighting raged hottest. The position of each regiment, as in battle, is marked by grand monuments erected by the states whose men fought here. Indeed, in most of the streets of the town are monuments marking some place of interest, of some skirmish. The place where the first gun was fired is marked by the statue of Buford in bronze, and the very cannon itself is here flanked by four others. Numerous other monuments, representing various generals and their horses, are scattered about, while the intrenchments, artillery, ammunition and stone walls are preserved intact.

"Crossing the street in which the first skirmish occurred we enter the gates of the Soldiers' National Cemetery. At the entrance are two huge iron pillars, bearing the names of the states which have men buried here. The grandeur and magnificence of this cemetery are beyond description. The beautiful driveways are bordered by maples which form a green archway. The road is of crushed granite, the grass green and velvety, and flowers and shrubs are full of beauty. The monuments are all of granite, no marble being allowed here because of its tendency to decay. The New York monument has bronze figures upon the four sides, representing different scenes in the war. The Pennsylvania monument, of white granite, stands on the spot where Lincoln made his famous speech, and has that speech engraved upon it. The work was executed in Italy. On its top is the Goddess of Liberty; grouped around, on the four corners, are the statues of Peace, War, Plenty, and Industry. These statues are considered the finest on the grounds.

"In our admiration of these monuments we lingered too long, and found ourselves locked in; but our guide helped us over the stile into the citizens' cemetery, where we found ourselves again on the site of a great battle. Making our way over a fence we found the main battlefield. Here, on every side, were monuments, artillery, towers, statues and flagstaffs; the latter, we learned, are of Oregon fir.

"As it was growing dark we hurried away to view 'High Water Mark,' better known as the turning point of the war, or 'Bloody Angle.' The historic clump of scrub-oaks is still standing, hardly larger, they say, than in war-time. The monument stands in front of the oaks. It is in book form, engraved with a suitable inscription. To the right is the historic stone wall over which the Confederates came by thousands, thinking themselves sure of an easy victory, but where, in the open wheatfield beyond the most of them met their death. Close by here is a lookout tower, one of the fourteen placed at intervals about the grounds, and from which may be seen the whole field, Culp's Hill, Devil's Den, Little and Big Round Top, and, in the background, Antietam."

MABEL E. JAMES, Salem, Oregon.

D. W. C. Morris, of White Plains, N. Y., has our acknowledgements for favors received, but which I cannot use as none of them are quite adapted to our needs.

And now, with many wishes for a Merry Christmas and plenty of gifts for every one of my nieces and nephews I will say good by until 1900.

AUNT MINERVA.

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CONDUCTED BY EVERETT G. WHEELMAN.

OF course the bicycle will be very much in evidence at the Paris Exposition next summer and there will be on exhibition not only every possible variety of wheel and all the modern and most up-to-date improvements, but all the strange devices and even freaks that have been invented since the World's Fair. Major Brackett, secretary of the United States Commission for the exposition says the bicycle and automobile exhibit will be in the Bois de Vincennes in a building provided for the housing of the railroad exhibits of all countries. A space of 8,600 square feet has been secured for the American bicycle building, which will have a special track for showing the wheels in operation. American builders, it is expected, will make the largest and most comprehensive exhibit of any country as is to be expected, since we manufacture far the greatest amount of bicycles in the world. A track some two miles in length and running around the lake Daumesnil in the Bois de Vincennes, has been provided for showing automobiles and motor vehicles of all kinds in operation and a space of 4,300 square feet in the automobile building has been secured for American exhibitors. According to good authority every manufacturer will be represented, and the keen interest shown by foreign countries in this matter will make these places among the most popular at the Exposition.

Of course it is early to predict much with certainty regarding the wheel of 1900, but all the same work on the wheels for next year is well started. It seems to be pretty clear that most makers will make the chainless wheel the chief product of their output. The bevel gear has demonstrated its practicability the past year and there will be no further hesitancy in turning out wheels with this gear in large numbers. This sort of wheel has come to stay and will be more popular next year than ever. Makers seem to be pretty nearly a unit in regard to them, and according to those who seem to know the most about it, the wheel of 1900 will be much lighter than that of the past season. This will apply to the chain as well as to the chainless varieties. We all rode wheels too light in 1896 and 1897. Last year and this wheels were much heavier and the change seemed to meet with favor. But there has been a reaction and riders want lighter wheels and will get them. The past year the average road wheel weighed anywhere from twenty-five to twenty-seven pounds and some of the chainless ones came near to thirty pounds. It is predicted, however, that next summer the average weight will be from twenty-three to twenty-five pounds, which means a reduction all round of from one to three pounds. Also, many people have asked that seven inch cranks shall be placed on their wheels and particularly those who purchased late in the season. It is said that the seven inch crank will be the general thing next year. In confirmation of what I say, let us see what a well-known manufacturer said in *The New York Tribune* a few weeks ago:

"The new models will, as a general thing, show a decided change from those issued this year. The various styles of chainless wheels will be made in larger numbers than this year, and the opinion seems to be general that this sort of wheel has won its spurs, and that there will be no further hesitancy in turning out such machines in large numbers. This will mean a corresponding lessening in the output of the chain wheels. The tendency among manufacturers in the last two years has been to make their bicycles heavier. During the seasons of 1896 and 1897 the tendency toward lightweight machines was carried to an extreme, and now some of the makers are of the opinion that they have gone almost to the other extreme this year. This change in sentiment will probably result in smaller tubing, smaller sprockets and smaller tires all around. There is even now a demand for inch and a half tires by those who for two years have been using from an inch and five-eighths to an inch and three-quarters. The general effects will be to make the bicycles less massive in appearance. From 27 to 32 pound wheels are as common on the roads to-day as were the 20 and 24 pound wheels of two or three years ago. The desire all along the line seems to be to lessen the weight of the bicycle from two to five pounds, and this can be accomplished without loss of much rigidity or strength."

The price of wheels has been steady for the past year and there is to be no great change during the season to come. Chain wheels will bring from thirty to fifty dollars and the chainless will bring from sixty to seventy-five. This is a decided improvement upon the old days when you couldn't get a decent wheel of any reputable make for less than a hundred dollars. It seems as if anybody and everybody might own a wheel nowadays. Selling wheels, however, is not so easy a business as might be imagined. A dealer tells me that even in these days when cycle construction has become so perfect and everybody is supposed to know all about the "silent, pneumatic-shod steed," there are many instances among buyers of ignorance of the most common things.

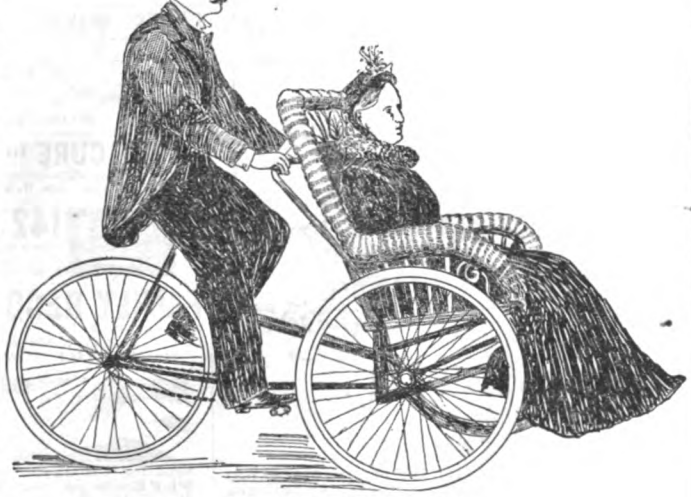
In New York, recently, a man and woman went to a well-known dealer and began to inspect a bevel-gear, chainless, which was on a stand. The salesman explained the wheel and in the meantime made the "wheel go round" fast enough to eclipse Eddie McDuffie or Major Taylor. Finally the woman announced that she understood the make-up of the machine perfectly, but she thought she would not take that particular wheel because the front wheel did not move as fast as the rear. Then the man insisted that if it were a chain wheel the front one would keep up with the back wheel and they were both in solemn earnest. It took that salesman a good half-hour to convince those two people that only the rear wheel received the power and that when the wheel was ridden, the two wheels would turn together.

How do you reckon the rate of speed at which a bicycle is traveling? Here is a way given by an expert. He says each bicycle has a basis of time upon which an estimate of miles an hour can be accurately made by counting the revolutions of the pedals which occur within this period. In such an estimate each revolution represents a mile. To obtain the basis of time, multiply the gear of the wheel by five and divide the product by twenty-eight. For instance take a sixty-eight gear; multiplied by five it gives three hundred and forty, which divided by twenty-eight is approximately 12.1. So if the pedals make ten revolutions in twelve seconds, the speed per hour is very nearly ten miles, or if the number of revolutions be twenty, then the rider is going twenty miles an hour.

According to statisticians, when a man walks a mile he takes on an average 2,263 steps, lifting the weight of the body at each step. When he rides a bicycle of average gear he covers a mile with the equivalent of only 627 steps, bears no burden and covers the same distance in less than one-third of the time. Hence it is cheaper to walk than to ride, all things considered, isn't it?

When buying a wheel, unless you are already up in bicycle lore be sure you thoroughly understand all about the different parts of the machine. Learn how to attach and detach the tires, how to manage the valves, how to adjust the chain and how to remove and replace the pedals and cranks. This knowledge will be worth dollars and time and good temper to you when you are off on the road all by yourself some day.

Few wheelmen, perhaps, are aware that oil is a deadly enemy to brass and steel and that it accounts for many breakages in joints of bicycles that have been used for some time. When the machine has been well rubbed with an oiled rag the oil collects at the joints and gradually eats its way in, parting the brass from the steel so that the joint finally gives way. To clean the frame it should be wiped with a soft sponge and dried with a soft cloth.



THE NEW CARRY-CYCLE.

It is not infrequently found that little blisters will develop on tires. They grow until they get as large as the little finger and fill the amateur with wonder as to the cause. It is because there has been a slight puncture through the rubber as far as the canvas and then through the tiny hole dust and sand have penetrated and so produced something like a wart. To get the dirt out the tire should be deflated, the rubber slit with a needle and then the dust blown out with an inflator. After that, rinse in some thickening solution and let fasten dry before you inflate again.

In London there is a movement on foot to insure against cycle accidents. A subscription of half a sovereign or so will cover one in all accidents not due to actual negligence or too open carelessness. When you have a puncture, all you have to do is to take your wheel to the repair shop, present your membership card and repair is attended to with no further trouble to yourself. The bill is sent to headquarters. Such an association would be a good thing in this country.

The wheelman has not been altogether selfish. He demanded good roads for himself, but he knew full well that the farmer and the teamster would be benefited as well. He had their opposition at first, but he did not care and persisted in his crusade. Today the farmer and wagoner stand side by side with the wheelman in the demand for better roads throughout the country.

One of the greatest results of the popularity of the bicycle, indeed, is the improvements on our national highways. All that science and invention have done to give us the automobile would be practically useless without the good roads which make them a practicability. The automobile cannot exist in regions where the wheel sinks half way to the hub in mud. So let us keep on ever singing its praises. Here's to the up-to-date bicycle of 1900. May it be more of a success, even, than any of its predecessors!

The cut this month shows a new invention already on the market and called the "Kalamazoo Carry-Cycle." They are particularly desirable for invalids and old people. They are said to be easy to run and steer by either a lady or a gentleman and they cost about the same as an ordinary tandem. The chair is detachable so that the bicycle part can be used separately when it is desired.

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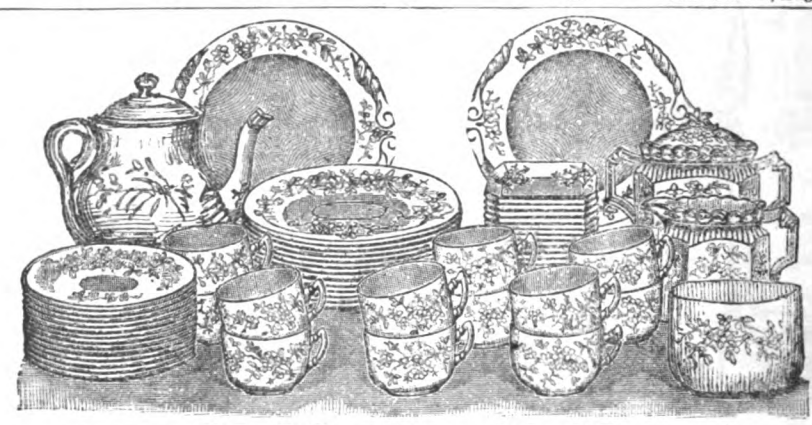


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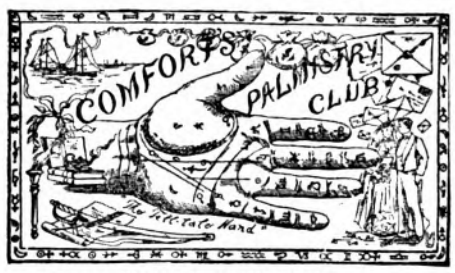
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CONDITIONS.

To have one's hands read in this department, by Digitus, one of the finest living palmists, it is necessary to observe the following conditions:

Impressions of both hands must be sent, fully postpaid and having the name, address and nom de plume of the sender enclosed in the package also.

The package must in every instance be accompanied by the names and addresses of eight new subscribers at twenty-five cents each, the whole amount, $2.00 being remitted, with the package, addressed to COMFORT PALMISTRY CLUB, Augusta, Maine.

No notice will be taken of impressions and requests for readings unless the sender has fully complied with the above conditions.

To take impressions, first hold two large pieces of blank paper over a candle or similar flame, until they are heavily coated with the smoke. Then lay these pieces down, smoke side uppermost on a pad of cotton. Now place the two hands, palms downward, one on each sheet of paper, pressing firmly and steadily down, but taking care not to move the hand. Keep them so for one minute and lift carefully, so as not to disturb the impression. Have ready some fixatif, which can be bought at a drug store or an art store or made with gum arabic and water in an atomizer. Spray this over the impressions before they are moved and allow them to dry. Then they are ready to send.

Smoked paper impressions are the best. But if it is desired to send a plaster cast, take plaster of Paris and dissolve in water to the consistency of thick cream. Pour this into a large shallow dish and when it is hardening place the hand, well-greased, palm downward, in the plaster, pressing downward. Several minutes will be required to get this impression and great care must be taken in removing the hand, not to break the plaster. Casts are exceedingly difficult to send without breaking and should be very carefully packed in a box with the name of the sender written on it. Putty is sometimes successfully used in place of plaster. A good photograph if sufficiently well taken to bring out all the lines, can also be read, although in all cases the smoked paper is the best, if properly treated with fixatif.

Bear in Mind that all the above conditions must be observed.

Also, that letters not complying with them will go into the waste-basket. Readings cannot appear for several months after impressions are sent.

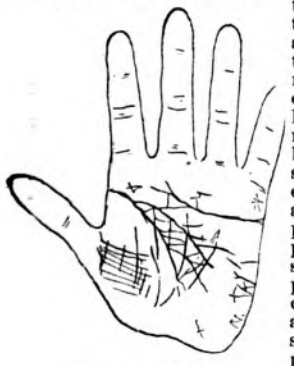
IN spite of the fact that we keep the rules pertaining to this column standing at the head of this department, certain people still write asking what they must do to have their hands read here, how they must send them, what it costs, etc. PLEASE READ THE ABOVE RULES.

"Winifred" wants to know where the marriage lines are. The deep horizontal lines at the side of the hand under the little finger are the first marriage lines, although sometimes these appear when there is nothing but an engagement. For the corroboration of them as marriage lines, look for a fine line following the life line, or for a similar one following the fate line and close to it. If either of these lines appear in both hands the marriage is pretty sure to take place. The "Comfort Guide" is a little work on Palmistry issued by Cheiro, assisted by myself for the use of readers of this department. It costs fifty cents.

Another reader asks where Cheiro's "Language of the Hands" can be procured. His publisher is Brentano, Union Square, New York, and the book costs $2.00.

"Charlotte" asks what it means to have a circle in the triangle, close to the head line on the left side of the fate line. The circle is a very rare sign and only has a good signification when it appears on the Mount of Apollo. By the side of the life line it would mean some injury at the time indicated which would of course affect the fate line. Two lines in percussion under the little finger, one being less distinct than the other, would mean that the person does not marry the one they love best. The Mount of Sun surrounded by short lines means that the talents will be somewhat scattered and the person will not get the best out of life. The fate line crossing an island on the lower part of the life line is not a good sign; when it begins on the Mount of Venus with an island it indicates some mystery or disgrace attached to the birth. The life line ending in a fork denotes poverty in old age.

The first hand to be read this month belongs to "Nellie, 313." This is a hand denoting an upright and rather artistic nature with fairly good lines. This person will make a good musician or artist. She will, however, be methodical in her nature and orderly. She will marry some person of distinction but will either grow away from her husband, or become less attached to him at about the age of thirty and the breach between them will never lessen. This event will cause her some worriment at the time, but she will be preserved from any evil effects from it and it will be happier in the latter part of her life than she was the first part. Her health during childhood and youth was not strong, but improves as she goes on in life. She will travel a great deal and will once in her life be in great danger from drowning. She has an imaginative temperament and is oversensitive. She will be fond of books that deal with the imagination, such as novels and poetry. During the middle part of her life she will have some trouble with affairs of the heart, but these will pass away and she will be happier during the latter part of her life than she has ever been. This is a hand in which good and evil are mixed, but neither predominates.



"NELLIE 313."

"S. E. K." has a very peculiar hand; it is a hollow hand which always is a sign of trouble. There is some severe sickness or great trouble at about the age of eighteen or twenty and I think the life line is almost too deep to warrant the best of health. An early attachment at about the age of twenty results in marriage, but I do not think the marriage will prove of the happiest nature. The two parties will grow apart and "S. E. K." will have another attachment later in life which may result in a second marriage. She is a person of a great deal of tact and a strong imagination. She also has a good deal of will power and a highly artistic temperament in all things. She will be dainty in her tastes and always likes to have things nice and pleasant around her. She has the courage of her convictions and will always dare to do whatever she wants to do. She will not live to a very great age and will probably have some serious attack of illness about the age of fifty. I do not see any signs of wealth in her hand and think she will always have to work as hard as her strength will permit.

A second set of hands has been received from "H. C. G." and from "Lygia." These have already been in the October and November numbers.

"A. B." wants to know what is the triangle proper. It is the three cornered space in the middle of the hand formed by the junction of the lines of life, of head and of health. The line of health runs from the Mount of Mercury down towards the life line. It does not appear in all hands in which case the triangle must be reckoned with the line of health as imaginary. This triangle is sometimes called the Plain of Mars. If this triangle is well traced and neat with good even lines it indicates good health, good luck, a long life and a courageous disposition. If it is large with the lines curving outward, with a good healthy color, it denotes liberality, generosity and a noble soul, but if it is small with the lines curving inward, it shows pettiness, cowardice and avarice.



"S. E. K."

Sometimes a triangle will form itself in a hand which was originally without it. This means that the health will improve greatly with advancing years. If the skin is hard and rough inside the triangle there will be great hardihood and strength of nerve. A cross in the triangle shows a quarrelsome and contrary disposition and many crosses betoken bad luck. A star in this triangle denotes riches obtained with much difficulty and worry. If this star is the termination of a worry line it indicates sorrow.

The quadrangle is the square space between the lines of the heart and head. It is bounded on the east, so to speak, by an imaginary line coming down from between the first and second fingers and on the west by another from between the third and fourth fingers. This quadrangle should be even in width all the way through. It should be smooth and comparatively free from lines, in which case it indicates fidelity, loyalty and a good disposition. If it is too narrow in the center it gives deceit, injustice and an avaricious disposition. If it is too wide it shows imprudence and sometimes folly. If it is widest under the little finger, it shows that a generous nature has grown avaricious, if it is too narrow it shows a continual anxiety about reputation. Filled up with little lines, it shows a weak head. A well formed star in a quadrangle is a sure indication of trustworthiness and also of a considerable fortune won by the subject's own merit.

A quantity of little rays running across the line of life into the triangle accompanied by short nails are a certain sign of worries, estrangement of friends and similar troubles.

A line starting from the Mount of Venus and ending in a square in the palm of the hand denotes a narrow escape from marriage with a bad man or woman. A line extended from a star on the Mount of Venus to a fork under the finger of Saturn betrays an unhappy marriage. A line going from a star on Venus to the Plain of Mars and then turning up to the Mount of Apollo where it meets a single ray denotes a great inheritance from some near relation. Two worry lines running parallel from the Mount of Venus to that of Mars denote two love affairs at the same time and a star joined to these lines denotes that the pursuit ends in trouble. Any worry line coming from a star on the Mount of Venus denotes the death of some dearly loved friend.

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Hon. Press Irons, Mayor of Nevada, was afflicted with kidney and bladder troubles for ten years and could find no relief in the usual remedies. In one week he was completely restored by Prof. Weltmer.

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PROF. KELLY Sec'y and Treas.

The American School of Magnetic Healing is organized under the laws of the State of Missouri. Prof. Weltmer is the president of this institution, and Prof. J. H. Kelly the secretary and treasurer. It is impossible for Prof. Weltmer to attend to the enormous demands made upon him to cure. He, therefore, wishes others to take up his profession, so that he may call upon them to assist him in his noble work. With this in view the American School of Magnetic Healing was founded. The method perfected and in use by this school is so complete in all its details that the students become as efficient as Prof. Weltmer himself, in this great art to cure, in ten days. This noble profession is taught either by mail or personal instructions. Any one who desires can learn it, and any one who learns can practice it. This has been abundantly proven by the great number who have been instructed and who are in the active practice of healing by this method. This is beyond doubt the best paying profession of the age, as students who have learned this method through the American School of Magnetic Healing are earning from $10 to $50 per day.

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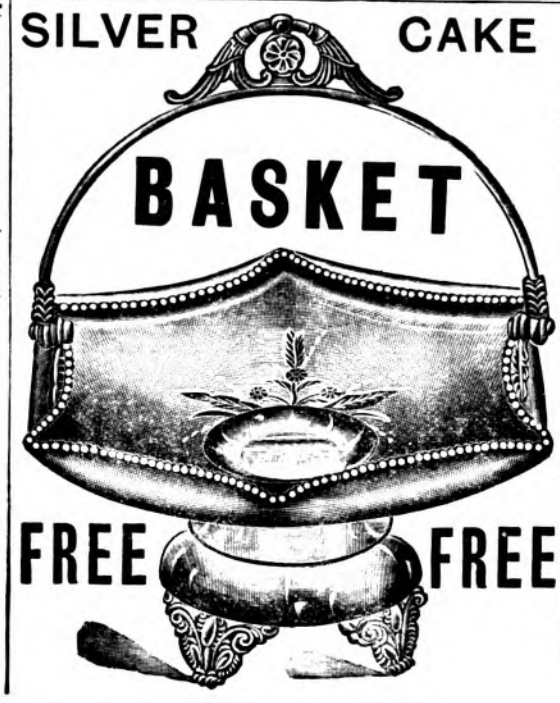
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What real fun our Puritan forefathers and foremothers did miss when they refused to keep Christmas Day lest they should seem to assent to all the abuses of the "Established Church." No wonder that their descendants have acquired a difficult set of principles, and that the Christmas holly and mistletoe and the Christmas greens show bright against the New England snows.

The Vanderbilt will made some of the New York papers come out with the pathetic head line, "Cut off with a Million." It emphasizes the idea that riches are relative. All the money worshipers breathed a sigh of relief when they read that the second son had come to the rescue of the eldest born with a gift of $6,000,000. On that young Cornelius can keep the wolf from the door. "Cut off with a Million!!"

Admiral Dewey has certainly stood one ordeal like a hero. That is the searching ordeal to all feelings of personal vanity in being required to face about a million pictures of himself. When we reflect on the trouble the average individual has in getting even one photograph that is satisfactory—the shock that his vanity suffers when he receives a bunch of negatives and the careworn look that is the usual every-day appearance of a photographer we know what a picture means to the average citizen. Our poor Admiral has had to face whole platoons of pictures, from the tiny one on badges to the ambitious old painting, and history does not record that he said anything. He may have been beyond the power of utterance but he certainly endured in heroic silence.

The genius that discovered that there were really only nine jokes in the world and that all the rest were variations, should turn his attention to classifying the motives of Christmas stories. Dickens is in a class by himself, but the rest! Class one—some one comes home on Christmas eve—long lost boy or daughter or lover or husband. Class two—the indifferent husband has a change of heart and surprises his wife with a gift. Etc., etc., etc. As for jokes—it is always the old one about the bill coming home. But when one reflects that human ingenuity has been taxed for one thousand eight hundred and ninety-nine years we cannot wonder at the lack of new motive in the Christmas story. We can only admire the people who make bricks as good as new with the same old straw.

The message "Peace on earth good will to men" is one thousand eight hundred and ninety-nine years old. Its latest anniversary, Christmas of 1899, repeats the sad fact that it is yet a sentiment not put to practical use. Never since the message came has the anniversary of Christ's birth found the whole world at peace. The wars being urged by the two great Anglo-Saxon nations are righteous wars in that they are fought in the cause of freedom and equality. As far as war can be right and necessary these wars are. In spite of this, the season of the birth of the Saviour must bring serious thoughts to all deeply interested in the ideas of universal disarmament and arbitration as a means of settling disputes. The vision of "peace on earth, good will to men" goes hand in hand with the poet's vision of the millenium where the war drums throb no longer and the battle flags are furled in the parliament of man, the federation of the world.

The proposition to make the Dewey Arch permanent finds eager support in all who saw the stately beauty and grace of the white arch. Critics affirm that nothing so beautiful was ever erected in America and that even Europe with its treasures of art cannot match this work of American sculptors in honor of American heroes. The later proposition to make the arch endure in marble and to honor the whole navy instead of one man also merits hearty support. It is estimated that at least a million will be needed. If the committee would organize a scheme of small contributions and have a plan by which every American citizen should be asked to contribute twenty-five cents the sum would be forthcoming in short order. The arch is too beautiful to be allowed to become only a memory. This war has changed the destiny of our nation and the most thrilling events of the war were enacted by the American navy. Let the people rear the arch in solid, enduring marble.

People have become somewhat satiated with the various societies, books and preachments on how to live well. They have turned at last to serious discussion of the problem how to live long. The Hundred Year Club is an expression of this interest in the subject of longevity. Occasionally a centenarian is found who has never indulged in narcotics or stimulants and then the student of longevity mournfully lays aside his pipe and swears to shun the cup that cheers and inebriates. He no sooner comes to this conclusion than another centenarian appears who confesses to violating every rule of health, one at a time and in a bunch. He has never done anything that any one ought to do and he has lived a hundred years to tell the story. These are the exceptional cases from which it is impossible to prove or make a rule. The large life insurance companies prepare statistics that really cast some light upon the problem of long life. If you would have your days long in the land become a minister of the gospel. Out of every 170 ministers 42 reach the age of seventy years. The farmers come next in the record of long lives as 40 out of every 170 attain the desired age. Then come teachers and lawyers and last of all the doctors. Only 24 out of every 170 doctors reach the age of seventy. The choice of a profession then is something more than a choice of means of livelihood, it is a choice of long life or short. Theologians complain that fewer men wish to enter the ranks of the ministry. Let the statistics be published and the public understand that saving souls guarantees a long life and saving bodies insures a short life and the situation may change.

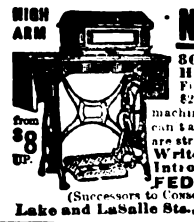
There are two graces of life that need careful explaining and application at Christmas time. One is "The Art of Giving," the other "The Art of Receiving." Without an understanding of these two arts the pleasure of the Christmas season may be turned into real unhappiness. The art of giving involves conditions that burden even the most delicate tact. The gift must not be of a nature that will create a sense of obligation in the recipient—on the other hand it must not be an actual necessity for few people are happy minded enough to take the view that they can get along without the necessities if they have the luxuries of life. Hence they procure the necessities, and a gift that is a luxury carries with it a double pleasure. To give a gift graciously as well as generously, to give a gift that shows the personality of the giver and an appreciation of the tastes of the receiver, all this and much more is a part of the art of giving. The art of receiving is even more difficult in its fine relations. It may be more blessed to give than to receive but it surely is far more difficult to receive with tact. How often is the entire spirit of Christmas marred by the fact that some one has not learned the art of receiving. The art is one so difficult to acquire, so closely related to all that is tactful and courteous in human relations, that a volume would hardly give the primary principles of the art. In spite of this the plainest person, the one least familiar with the arts and graces of society may understand perfectly all that is required to make one proficient in the art of receiving. Much pleasure may be added to the Christmas season by a loving consideration of these two arts—giving and receiving.

We find a singular lack of unanimity in the press utterances concerning our prospective ownership of Cuba, the Philippines and the Hawaiian Islands. The Jingo part of the press boldly proclaim the inevitable destiny of America to lie in the line of conquest, while the ultra-conservative portion bitterly deplore the growth of imperialism and foresee the downfall of the Republic in the signs of the times. It is with neither of these extremists that the thinking American, familiar with his country's history and precedents, must side. One of the principal arguments against the purchase of Louisiana was that no nation possessing such an extent of territory could hold together. This seems absurd to us but the modern inventions of the railroad, the steamship and the electric telegraph have made the conclusion absurd. At the time of its statement the territory was actually farther away from the seat of government than Manila is to-day. We have not found it difficult to govern this territory, but we have found it difficult with our form of government to reconcile the warring interests of sections. In a federal government where each part of the nation in time assumes an equal share in the government, the annexation or acquisition of new territory presents features of difficulty not possible under a monarchial form of government. We have scarcely solved the problem presented by the black element in the South and the Indian in the West. If the settlement of questions at the end of the war should force upon us the wardenship of this alien people, it is safe to say that the progressive American nation will find means to govern and assimilate the elements that seem foreign to our ideas. We do not need this territory, it is doubtful if we even want it, but if it seems political prudence to keep what we have won we believe we shall know how to do so. "Westward the course of empire takes its way" has been true of this nation and if extreme west not stopping at the line of the Pacific shall become "east" again we shall be equal to the problem. When Spain began her conquests of colonial possessions under Philip II. her imperial arms were a globe representing the world with a horse leaping upon it. In his mouth was a scroll with the motto, "*Non sufficit orbis,*" (the earth is not sufficient.) We disclaim any such ambition; we are even content with the ocean boundaries that Nature has set—but if we are forced to take the earth by the fortunes of war we shall know how to accommodate our ideas, our traditions and our government to the strain.

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No.	PIANO OR ORGAN.	
165	American Liberty March	Cook
101	Ancients Abroad. March—Two Step	Cook
181	Auld Lang Syne. Variations	Durkee
187	Austrian Song. Op. 69, 1	Pacher
215	Battle of Waterloo. Descriptive	Anderson
179	Beauties of Paradise Waltz. 4 hands	Streabbog
227	Beautiful Blue Danube Waltzes	Strauss
65	Bells of Corneville. Potpourri	Elson
213	Black Hawk Waltzes	Walsh
221	Bluebird Echo Polka	Morrison
199	Boston Commandery March	Carter
109	Bridal March from Lohengrin	Wagner
229	Bryan and Sewall March	Noles
133	Cadences and Scales in all Keys	Czerny
1	Catherine Waltzes	Stroh
237	Cherokee Roses Waltz. 4 hands.	Behr
145	Clayton (Adjutant) March—Two Step	Missud
217	Cleveland's March	Noles
81	Coming from the Races Galop	Wheeler
111	Constancy, Romance	Fink
211	Corn Flower Waltzes	Coote, Jr
41	Crack Four March	Ashton
71	Crystal Dew Waltz	Durkee
235	Day Dawn Polka	Cook
163	Dewey's Grand Triumphal March	Marcel
117	Echoing Trumpets March	Noles
121	Electric Light Galop	Durkee
191	Estella, Air de Ballet. Very fine.	Robinson
107	Ethel Polka	Simons
155	Evergreen Waltz	Stoddard
231	Faust. Selections	Durkee
77	Fifth Nocturne	Leybach
233	Flirting in the Starlight. Waltz	Lasade
239	Flower Song. Op. 39.	Lange
97	Fresh Life	Spindler
177	Frolic of the Frogs.	Watson
49	Full of Ginger. March Galop.	Nutting
183	Golden Rain. Nocturne	Cloy
147	Grand Commandery March—Two Step	Missud
53	Greeting of Spring. op. 21	Schultze
185	Her Bright Smile Haunts Me Still	Richards
173	Hobson of the Merrimac Waltzes	Jewell
139	Home, Sweet Home. Transcription	Slack
17	Impassioned Dream Waltzes	Rosas
153	Jenny Lind polka. Four hands	Muller
157	Last Hope. Meditation	Gottschalk
195	Leap Year Schottische	Kahn
159	Lee's (Gen'l) "On to Cuba" galop	Darsee
141	London March—Two Step	Missua
99	Maiden's Prayer, The	Badarzewska
45	March Winds Galop	Mansfield
240	Martha Selections	Johnson
207	May Breezes. Four hands	Krug
225	McKinley and Hobart March	Turner
55	Memorial Day March	Hewitt
131	Monastery Bells. Nocturne	Welty
89	Morning Dew, op. 18	Smith
61	Morning Star Waltz	Zahn
201	Music Box, The. Caprice	Liebich
137	My Love Polka	Zichrer
125	My Old Kentucky Home. Variations	Cook
87	National Anthems of Eight Great Nations	
175	National Songs of America	Blake
135	Nightingale's Trill, op. 8	Kullak
123	Old Folks at Home. Transcription	Blake
171	Old Oaken Bucket, The. Variations	Durkee
219	On the Wave Waltz	Dinsmore
197	Oregon, Queen of the Sea. Two-step	Robinson
83	Orvetta Waltz	Spencer
9	Our Little Agnes. Waltz	Gregoire
191	Over the Waves Waltz	Rosas
79	Please Do Waltz	Durkee
193	Poet and Peasant Overture (Suppe)	Brunner
167	Red, White and Blue Forever. March	Blake
143	Richmond March—two-step	Missud
33	Rustic Waltz	Schumann
127	Rustling Leaves. Idylle	Lange
39	Ruth, Esther and Marion Schottische.	Cohen
149	Salem Witches March—Two-Step	Missud
75	Scherzettino, op. 48	Guilmant
189	Schubert's Serenade Transcription	Liszt
161	Silvery Waves. Variations	Wyman
169	Smith's (General) March	Martin
31	Song of the Voyager	Paderewski
22	Souvenir March Song of 1895 K. T. Parade	Dow
95	Spirit Lake Waltz	Simons
151	Storm, The. Imitation of Nature	Weber
73	Storm Mazurka	Keefer
109	Sultan's Band March.	Brown
209	Sweet Long Ago Transcription	Blake
115	Tornado Galop	Arbuckle
103	Trifet's Grand March, op. 182	Wedel
223	Twilight Echoes. Song without words	Jewell
113	Under the Double Eagle March	Wagner
129	Venetian Waltz	Ludorff
205	Village Parade Quickstep	Allen
7	Visions of Light. Waltz	Cook
203	Warblings at Eve	Richards
93	Waves of the Ocean March	Blake
59	Wedding March	Mendelssohn
85	Winsome Grace. A perfect gem.	Howe
119	Woodland Whispers Waltzes	Stanley
105	Zephyr Waltz.	Bragg

No.	VOICE AND PIANO OR ORGAN.	
236	Across the Bridge	Le Brunn
2	Annie's Love. Duet for Sop. and Ten.	Winter
27	Ave Maria. From Cavalleria Rusticana	Mascagni
140	Beacon Light of Home	Estabrooke
134	Beautiful Moonlight. Duet	Glover
238	Bells of Seville	H. Jude
162	Ben Bolt, of "Trilby" fame	Kneass
226	Blue Eyes	Elson
200	Bridge, The. Words by Longfellow	Carew
192	Can You, Sweetheart, Keep a Secret?	Estabrooke
122	Changeless	Trotere
214	Childhood's Happy Hours	Dinsmore
138	Christmas Carol	Turner
190	Come When the Soft Twilight Falls	Schumann
168	Coon's Breach of Promise. Cake walk	Blake
92	Cow Bells, The. Boyhood's Recollection	Grimm
176	Darling Nellie Gray	Hanby
70	Dear Heart, We're Growing Old	Estabrooke
128	Don't drink, my Boy, tonight. Temp.	Hoover
50	Easter Eve. Sacred	Gounod
220	Ever Sweet is Thy Memory	Hosfeld
19	'E Dunno Where 'E Are. Comic	Eplett
72	Ellaline. Waltz song	Betts
180	Far Away	Bliss
182	Father is Drinking Again. Temperance	
126	Far from the Hearthstone	Messer
152	Flag of Our Country. Patriotic	Mathiot
156	Flag, The. Quartette	Fox
144	Flirting in the Starlight	Delano
8	Flossie. Waltz Song	Cohen
138	For a Dream's Sake	Owen
36	For the Colors. Patriotic	Wilson
66	For You We are Praying at Home	Estabrooke
166	From our Home the Loved are Going	Percy
202	Give a Kiss to Me	Percy
178	God Bless My Kind Old Mother	Jewell
204	Golden Moon	Iran
150	Gypsy Countess. Duet	Glover
198	Heart of My Heart	Robinson
154	I Can't Forget the Happy Past	Skelly
74	In Sweet September	Temple
188	In the Starlight. Duet	Glover
28	Juanita. Ballad	May
98	Kathleen Mavourneen	Crouch
21	Keep the Horseshoe over the Door	Skelly
196	Killarney	Balfe
132	Kiss me, but don't say goodbye	Rutledge
130	Kiss that bound my Heart to thine	Keil
164	Larboard Watch. Duet	Williams
148	Listen to the Mocking Bird	Hawthorne
48	Little Boy Blue. Solo or Duet	Estabrooke
154	Little Voices at the Door	Danks
98	Lost Chord, The	Sullivan
106	Lottie Bell	Gilbert
40	Love Ever Faithful	Bucalossi
68	Lovely Little Nellie Dwyer	Casey
25	Lurline, Do you think of me now?	Estabrooke
234	Margaretta	Falke
112	Massa's Sleeping in de Churchyard	Keefer
230	Memories of my Mother. Chorus	Allen
39	Mission of a Rose, The. Song	Cowen
52	Mother's Cry, A. (Salvation Army)	Advance
172	Mother's Welcome at the Door	Estabrooke
222	Musical Dialogue. Duet	Helmund
232	Must the Sweet Tie that binds	Estabrooke
114	My First Wife's Departed. (Blueb'rd)	Offenbach
76	My Home by the Old Mill	O'Halloran
110	My Little Lost Irene	Danks
170	My Old Kentucky Home	Foster
216	Oh, Sing Again that Gentle Strain	Dinsmore
228	Old Folks at Home (Swanee Ribber)	Foster
60	Old Glory. National	Woods
102	Old Sexton, The	Russell
104	On the Banks of the Beautiful River	Estabrooke
90	On the Beach. Most beautiful ballad	Robinson
160	Outcast, An. Character Song	Fritz
174	Parted from our Dear Ones	Keller
100	Picture of My Mother, The	Skelly
148	Poor Girl didn't know. Comic	Cooke
53	Precious Treasure. Song and Dance	Weiler
133	Request. Sacred	Grainger
208	Rocked in the Cradle of the Deep	Knight
147	Rosemonde	Chaminade
81	See Those Living Pictures	Guth
224	Shall I Ever See Mother's Face Again?	Adriance
194	She Sleeps among the Daisies	Dinsmore
124	Softly shine the Stars of Evening	Dinsmore
210	Son's Return, The	Fritz
120	Storm at Sea. Descriptive	Hullah
10	Sweetest Song, The	Denza
32	Sweet Long Ago, The	Estabrooke
46	That Word was Hope. Waltz song	Nutting
118	There's a Rainbow in the Clouds	Danks
206	There's Sure to be a Way	Delano
158	Thinking of Home and Mother	Cohen
116	'Tis True, Dear Heart, We're Fading	Estabrooke
108	Tread softly, the Angels are calling	Turner
38	True to the Last	Adams
64	Vicar of Bray, The. Old English Song	
62	Your Mother's Love for You	Koppt
84	What are the Wild Waves Saying? Duet	Glover
58	When the Roses are Blooming Again	Skelly
86	When Winter Days Have Gone	Troyne
186	Whistling Wife, The. Comic	Randall
212	Why am I ever Watching	de Lasaide
218	Why do Summer Roses Fade	Barker

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Something About an Opera Chorus.

The attention of most every person is at times called to the peculiar fact of how little foundation there is for what is really a popular opinion. It is really strange how often an error will become what is supposed to be a fact in the mind of almost every person. Very often this is brought about by being told in youth some point that fixes the idea, and in later years examination is never made into the subject to find out how much foundation there may be in the belief that exists.

Just recently a newspaper paragraph in one of the papers of the day spoke in a slurring manner of the make-up of opera choruses in the metropolis, and suggested that more attention should be paid to obtaining cultured singers for such positions rather than to fill the stage with a lot of people lacking in character and musical culture.

The appearance of this article in a well known and authoritative paper caused much indignation among the better class of chorus singers and lead to the representative of another noted newspaper making some inquiry into the make-up of the choruses then performing in the city. The interesting facts obtained relative to the make-up of one opera chorus, which will serve as an example of all then singing in the city, seemed typical of the general run. Of the particular company which we mention, the information was elicited that no less than 85 per cent. had received a technical and thorough musical training in conservatories; that 35 per cent. had received a musical education in some of the institutions of Europe, and that over one-half had a grand opera repertory, in some form or other.

We all know how often derogatory remarks are made about chorus girls and how flippantly they are spoken of in ordinary conversation; but this canvas would open the eyes of any one to the injustice of the careless remarks which might hurt the reputation of any girl, for it was found that among the women of this particular chorus four were daughters of ministers. No less than 15 per cent. had been educated at convents or other religious seminaries, and 30 per cent. more had received a liberal college education. The parentage of the girls was fully as interesting as any other figures which were obtained, and it was found that over 60 of the fathers were men in the professional walks of life. Five per cent. of the girls were possessed of independent private means and had adopted this life in order to have something to do in the way of work, or because they had stage ambitions; and the closing fact, which was as interesting as the rest in this census, was that over 50 per cent. of the men in the chorus had a college education.

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Choosing Music For a Profession.

Often when talking with musical people we will hear vain regrets that some friend did not choose a musical profession or failed to study music harder when young. Such persons almost always express perfect confidence in their own powers to have met with musical success had they only adopted it as a profession.

It is to such people that COMFORT wishes to say a word; and more especially should the advice be heeded by those still young who contemplate becoming professionals mainly because they believe that in a social way the life is pleasant and that it does not mean work or sacrifice to attain success. To the first we would say that it is useless sighing over the past and the only question that can now present itself is whether or not you have sufficient musical ability to make it worth the while to devote the necessary time and money to it to make a success now. To look at the fact squarely in the face, few people have musical genius. Many have ability and a certain amount of capability, and it is such that spurred on by the ill-tuned advice of flattering friends become filled with an almost conceited idea that they above all others have the true musical gift. The result is that hundreds of people with little or no ability rush into the field and crowd with a mass of half-educated instrumentalists or vocalists, who have taken this vocation with a belief that they possess sufficient talent to place themselves at the very top of the profession.

These that are so carried away with themselves are destined to failure and a life of discontent because of their surroundings, and that they will fail to shine above others as they expected to.

To the other class who stand debating the question of the future we would point out that no one who is afraid of hard work, long hours and constant effort should select this profession. No matter how high and grand your ideas may be there can be no success unless you take a practical view and realize that in the musical as in every other profession success only comes after toil and sacrifice.

To those possessing a fair amount of talent combined with a love of the art and willingness to work, the musical profession is as every other one, a place where all may succeed moderately; but where but few can hope to possess the genius to attain the dazzling heights of the very pinnacle of musical fame.



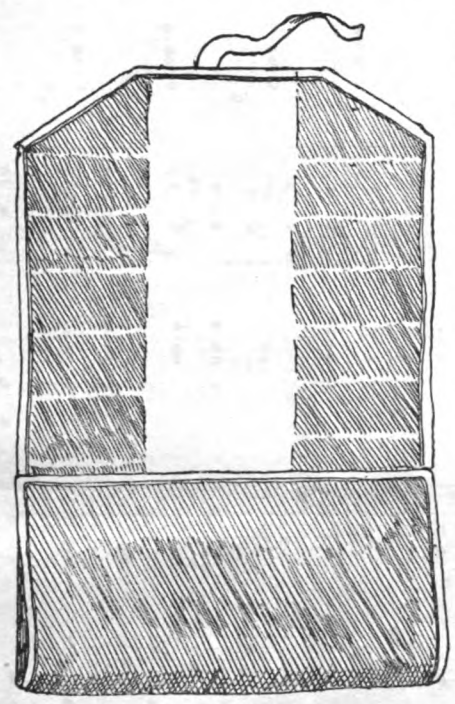
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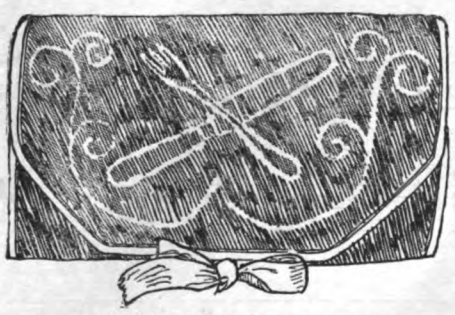


THE sharp, frosty weather reminds us of the near approach of Christmas, and we are able to give one or two new ideas for those of you who are making inexpensive remembrances for your friends.

Unless one has a well-filled purse the presents must needs be inexpensive, otherwise it would take all of one's allowance for the twenty or twenty-five presents which are necessary to go the rounds of one's immediate family, relatives and a few close friends—and this is putting the number very low.

It is a good idea, when remembrances are to be given to people who do not live in the same house, to get hold of some new and useful articles, either for decoration, the toilet table or for wearing purposes, and to make several of the same thing,—as material can be bought in quantities much more reasonably than when only enough for one of the articles is to be made—and give to those friends or relatives who live apart from each other.

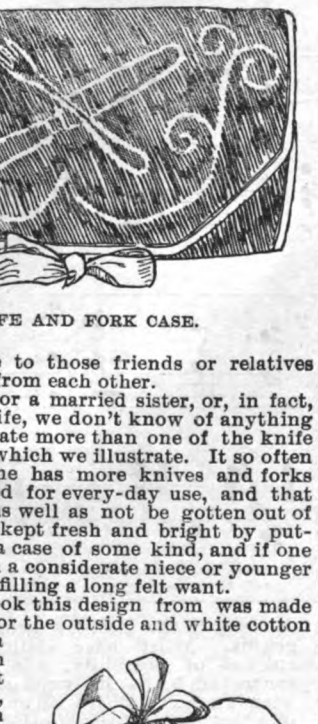




KNIFE AND FORK CASE.

For an aunt, or a married sister, or, in fact, for any housewife, we don't know of anything she will appreciate more than one of the knife and fork cases which we illustrate. It so often happens that one has more knives and forks than are needed for every-day use, and that some may just as well as not be gotten out of the way and be kept fresh and bright by putting them into a case of some kind, and if one is received from a considerate niece or younger sister it will be filling a long felt want.

The one we took this design from was made of blue denim for the outside and white cotton flannel for a lining. Both pieces were cut of the same size, being eighteen inches wide by twenty-four inches long. The two pieces should be laid together wrong side out and seamed up on two sides and one end and then turned right side out by means of the unsewed end. Then the sides are laid over toward the center to a depth of three and a half inches on each side; the open end should have the corners clipped off, and the whole should be bound with a white cotton braid or tape. The pockets are then to be stitched at such distances apart as will give twelve pockets for sticking the knives and forks into. The cotton flannel, of course, comes against the silver and so keeps it bright and free from scratches. It should fold three times, and on the outside end of the one we here illustrate, is embroidered in white linen floss a conventional design with a knife and fork incorporated. A piece of the tape, or a piece of ribbon should be sewed onto the end of the case, and also one at that point farther down on the outside of the case where the last fold comes, so that the case may be fastened in place after it is folded. The entire expense of such a case would not exceed twenty-five cents, if one bought enough of the denim, flannel, tape and linen floss for six.



PIN CUSHION.

The black leg which we show will puzzle our readers until they read the description and use of it. It is intended as a pin cushion to hang on a gentleman's chiffonniere—but is equally appropriate on a lady's dressing table. It is made of black china silk and is eight inches long. It is simply two pieces of the silk cut out, stitched together on the machine, turned and stuffed with bran, *very hard*. It is stuffed from the top, which is left open, and after it is packed as full as possible, the top is gathered and fastened securely. Then around this top is sewn a double ruffle of chiffon, and a bow of ribbon with one long loop for hanging purposes, is tacked on the last thing. The chiffon, or silk for the ruffle is, when doubled, about three or four inches deep, and quite full, and falls over the knee. The one we show has a yellow ruffle and yellow ribbon.

Another picture shows a pair of pants. You really cannot call them trousers. Pants is the name for them. They are made of denim, cut like a regular overall, with four buttons on the band and some suspenders made from white cotton tape attached thereto. They are supposed to be ornamental—they certainly are useful—not in the usual way, as they are only seven inches long, but in saving the wall paper from being ruined by careless people who think it is put upon the walls simply and solely for the purpose of being scratched with matches. For the benefit of these people two squares of sand paper are pasted onto the seat of the garment, and upon the sandpaper is an interesting text to be read carefully and to be remembered, when going up the stairs to bed, each night thereafter—and so save the wall paper and likewise their own trousers, for the legend says:



MATCH SCRATCHER.

"Scratch your matches on these breeches.
'Twill save your Mother lots of stitches."

It is suggested to present such gifts to boy cousins and young brothers, to be hung under the gas jet in their room.

HOW SOME OF OUR READERS CAN MAKE MONEY.

Last month I cleared, after paying all expenses, $355.85; the month previous $260 and have at same time attended to other duties. I believe any energetic person can do equally as well, as I have had very little experience. The Dish Washer is just lovely, and every family wants one, which makes selling very easy. I do no canvassing. People hear about the Dish Washer, and come or send for one. It is strange that a good cheap washer has never before been put on the market. The Iron City Dish Washer fills this bill. With it you can wash and dry the dishes for a family of ten in two minutes without wetting the hands. As soon as people see the Washer work they want one. You can make more money and make it quicker than with any other household article on the market. I feel convinced that any lady or gentleman can make from $10 to $14 per day around home. My sister and brother have started in the business and are doing splendid. You can get full particulars by addressing the Iron City Dish Washer Company, 110 Station A, Pittsburg, Pa. They help you get started, then you can make money awfully fast.

MRS. W. H——.

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Snap Shots at Famous Boston Writers.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



MARGARET DELAND.

WHILE perhaps no other American city contains so many literary workers as Boston, it cannot be said that any distinctly literary colony exists there. The homes of the men and women who are famous the world over for what they have written, are scattered all over the city and the suburbs. Some still cling to the houses in which a lifetime has been spent, regardless of the fact that a shifting population has left them in a hopelessly unfashionable neighborhood. Others have moved on with the tide into Beacon street and Commonwealth Avenue, while still others have left the city entirely for quieter if less convenient country homes.

Thomas Bailey Aldrich lives in a big old house on Mt. Vernon street, that most unique of all Boston's thoroughfares. Running directly over the top of Beacon Hill, parallel to Beacon street and next to it, thoroughly plebeian at both ends of its short length, there still remains a little space in the middle of Mt. Vernon street which may be reckoned among the most exclusive residence portions of Boston.

It is just there that Mr. Aldrich lives, his house one of a row set well back from the street, with that rare thing in the center of Boston, a big yard in front. The house inside, in its finish and its furnishings, reminds one of the exquisite literary art of the occupant. Quaint old tables and chairs, cabinets, bronzes, pictures, fit each in its place as perfectly and easily as does each word in the sentences which Mr. Aldrich writes.

Margaret Deland lives on the opposite side of Mt. Vernon street and a little below Mr. Aldrich. Her home is a bright modern house, filled with books—books everywhere. The part of the house which pleased me most was the enormous brick fireplace in the great sitting hall, a fireplace so big that a good sized family could sit in semi-circle before it.

Mrs. Deland, whose portrait is given in our initial, is a woman still young, although she has achieved so much in literature, handsome, and, what is not invariably the case with literary women, always becomingly gowned. At rare intervals she consents to read or speak before a public audience, and the occasions when she does so are always notable. She spoke from the pulpit of one of the great city churches in Boston, one Sunday evening not long ago, upon "The Modern Novel." Her voice is singularly well fitted for public speaking, being sweet, clear, and although never forced, easily strong enough to fill a large audience room.

Mrs. James T. Fields lives on Charles street, in a part of the city which has degenerated faster, perhaps, than any other. Noisy electrics rattle in the narrow street. Stables and harness shops, bakeries and Chinese laundries, are near neighbors. Almost every other house on the street has "Rooms to Let" in the window. And yet no one who has been in the house, or knows anything of its history, wonders that Mrs. Fields prefers it to any other house in the world. Probably no other house in Boston has entertained so many distinguished people, and though since the death of Mr. Fields the number has been somewhat lessened the house still keeps up its reputation. Among those who have been entertained there lately were Dr. Watson (Ian Maclaren), and his wife, for whom Mrs. Fields spread that novelty for them, a genuine New England Thanksgiving dinner.

Once inside the Fields' house and noisy Charles street and the city are forgotten, for back of the house, and opening from the dining-room, a beautiful high-walled garden stretches down to where the Charles river, here almost a lake, opens up a vista to the west, where, at sunset, the spires of Cambridge are outlined against the glowing sky.

One of the chiefest treasures of the house is the famous crayon portrait of Hawthorne, made from life. This hangs on the wall of the dining-room and looks down upon a massive old black oak table and queer high-backed chairs.



THOMAS BAILEY ALDRICH.

Herbert D. Ward and Mrs. Elizabeth Stuart Phelps Ward live in summer in a delightful house in Gloucester, set out on the rocks where the blue waters of Massachusetts bay almost wash the door sill. In winter their home is in a big, comfortable, modern house in a quiet part of Newton, some ten miles from Boston. Few literary families work under more favorable conditions, and few do as good work. Each has his and her own study, with only the hall between. The rooms are light and cheerful and each furnished in accordance with the tastes of its occupant. Mr. Ward has the reputation, and deserves it, of being one of the handsomest literary men Boston has ever known. Mrs. Ward has been ill much of the time of late and doing almost no work, a fact which has been a great disappointment to those of her friends who knew what her plans were. Mrs. Ward is seen very little in the social life of the city, but those who are privileged to see her in her home know her to be one of the most sweet and charming, as she is one of the most brilliant of women.

Mrs. Louise Chandler Moulton's home is a comfortable roomy house on Rutland Square, where the foremost woman writer of verse in America to-day has gathered around her a remarkable collection of pictures and books which are tokens of love and remembrance from the many celebrated people whom she has known. Mrs. Moulton's collection of gift volumes with autograph dedications is particularly large and interesting. Mrs. Moulton always spends her summers abroad, but her Friday afternoons, through the winter, are among the most notable of the social functions. Mrs. Moulton is one of the literary women who knows how to dress well, a faculty which her yearly visits to Paris assist her to exercise.

Gail Hamilton's girlhood home, the one to



LOUISE CHANDLER MOULTON.

which she returned whenever possible, and the one in which the last year of her life was spent, was a big old house in Hamilton, some twenty miles out of Boston.

It is a very generally received impression that this spirited writer's real name was Mary Abigail Dodge, and that she obtained her famous *nom-de-plume* by taking the last syllable of her middle name and the name of her native town. I have the authority of her surviving sister, Miss H. A. Dodge, however, for saying that this is entirely unfounded. Her sister's name, Miss Dodge says, was Mary Abby Dodge, and the name of Abigail which was so persistently ascribed to her was extremely distasteful.

Miss Dodge at home was the most charming hostess imaginable, her converstion sparkling with that wit which enlivened her writings, while her manner was kindliness itself. The last year of her life was a quiet one, for she was nearly helpless from illness. The inaction, the feeling of being "out of things" for one who had been for so long a time "in the midst," must have been hard to bear, but I never heard her make but one allusion to it, and that, it seemed to me, was a strikingly pathetic one. She had been speaking of some work on which she had been engaged which was especially interesting to her, and said:

"And now I can only sit in a nook of sunshine and play with two little black and white kittens." A moment later, though, the happier side of her nature asserted itself, and she added: "After all, though, I never before in all my life had all the time I wanted to play with kittens."

Hezekiah Butterworth has lived for over twenty years on Worcester street. He was for many years one of the editors of the Youth's Companion, but gave that up a few years ago to devote himself to miscellaneous writing. He has several series of boys' books under way, and his stories of New England life, in the writing of which he has no superior, are to be found in all the leading publications.



HEZEKIAH BUTTERWORTH.

Mr. Butterworth is devoting much time at present to a study of educational questions, particularly as pertaining to kindergarten work. He is a very careful student, and thinks nothing of going to Europe or South America to consult an authority. Recently he made a unique and extremely interesting journey across the Andes on mule back, going from Argentine to Chili. Some of the results of this trip have been given to the public through the Review of Reviews, and a more lengthy account has appeared in book form. Although Mr. Butterworth spends most of his time in Boston he owns the historic old farm and farmhouse of his family, down on the Rhode Island coast, and also an orange grove and cottage in Florida.

Julia Ward Howe's Boston home is a house in the most stylish part of Beacon street. Mrs. Howe also has a house at Newport, where she spends the summers. The Boston house is full of interesting objects, many of them of great historic value. I think that of all, the one which has interested most is the helmet which Byron wore during that Grecian war in which he lost his life. Dr. Ward, a Boston man of wealth and cultivation, became greatly interested in the struggle and went, as Byron did, to personally take part in it. During the time he was there he came to know Byron well, and after the latter's death his helmet was given to his American fellow soldier. The helmet is of bronze, beautifully wrought, and though tall and elaborate is not heavy enough to be burdensome. I enjoyed the privilege of trying it on, and when I did so shut my eyes and imagined for a moment that I could hear around me the clash of arms as Turk met Greek.

Mrs. Howe is so sweet and beautiful it is a benediction simply to be in her presence. I remember once I had occasion to go to ask her opinion for publication upon a great National question which had suddenly startled the country. I found her just returned home from a meeting of some sort, tired, I imagine, and not having had time to read what the papers had published about the matter. On this account she asked to be excused, until I happened to say how much her comment had been wished on this occasion because of her having written the "Battle Hymn of the Republic."

The mention of that famous lyric to her was like wine to a worn out man. Her weariness vanished. Her eyes shone, as she said: "Come back to me at nine o'clock. I will have had the papers read to me by that time and be ready to discuss the question understandingly." And she did.

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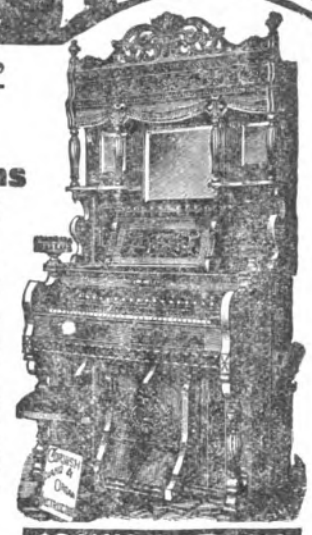
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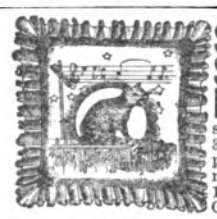
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is a very expensive article and is used extensively in the homes of the wealthy. This Rug is a Beautiful picture in itself. An immense factory employing hundreds of hands is turning out thousands and as they are made in bright oriental colors and patterns they produce an exquisite effect when laid on the floor. These Brussaline Rugs are fit to grace the floor of a Parlor, Sitting-Room, Hall, Dining-Room or Chamber and for an entry or kitchen rug or mat are simply grand; they are made by an entirely new process of Machine Rug making, and thus called Brussaline and we are anxious to get them before the people at once. Thousands upon thousands will be sold after they are shown and we offer you one free, now, in order to introduce them all over the country and after getting one you can show them around, take orders and make money selling them for us.

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COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

JUST A FEW NEW IDEAS.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.

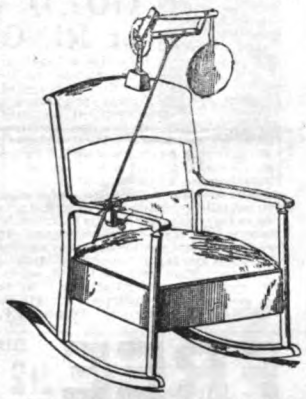


HERE is always a stream of new and interesting ideas flowing through the Patent Office at Washington, and some rather notable ones have gone on record during the last half dozen weeks. Among them one finds a contrivance for making artificial ostrich plumes, which has been originated by E. W. Moch, of New York City. He takes feathers of various smaller and cheaper birds, and puts them together in such an ingenious manner that nobody would suspect the artifice, the result being so fine that no lady need be ashamed to wear the composite ornament on her hat.

Nowadays the making of artificial birds is quite a business. For mourning hats small black parrots are much used, and, inasmuch as there are no such creatures in nature, they have to be manufactured out of defunct love birds, with the aid of dye. For half-mourning millinet black and white are desirable, and for this purpose again art comes to the rescue, turning out a fowl that is a curious mixture, with the gray head of a sandpiper, black wings and tail, and white body. Other birds are made to match costumes, and even hummingbirds are often counterfeited for the same purpose by skillful hands.

James Lyons, of Manchester, Mass., is the inventor of an egg-tester which ought to be a great saver of labor. Most people are acquainted with the ordinary manner of testing eggs, by holding each one for a moment between the eye and a candle, those which are perfectly translucent being declared fresh, while any opacity is a sign of staleness. The machine referred to performs the operation in a wholesale way, and at the same time very quickly, by the help of an endless belt which carries the eggs over a sheet of glass beneath which is a bright light. This light shines through the eggs as they pass over, and the bad ones can readily be picked out.

Interesting to the housewife is a corncob firekindler, patented by Robert Skiles, Wiota, Iowa. The pith being removed, the cob is filled with a mixture of paraffin and turpentine, the open ends being sealed with plaster. Finally, to prevent evaporation, the corncob is coated with heated resin, and it is guaranteed to start a roaring blaze off-hand.



CHAIR AND FAN COMBINATION.

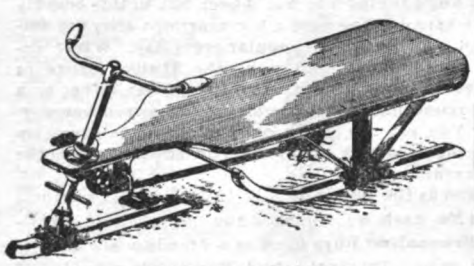
Two new kinds of monuments have been patented within the last month—one of them by Jeff D. Jarrett, of Ketchall, Tenn. It is a sort of artificial stone, with a filling of sand, an envelope of cement, and an outer coat of plaster-of-paris and mucilage. The advantage of this kind of monument is that it is cheap, so that surviving members of a family can afford to put one up for the least lamented relative. The other mortuary novelty is designed by W. A. Hawthorne, of Chittenden, Cal. (See initial.) It is of iron, with an upright piece supporting a horizontal tube which contains the ashes of the late lamented, whose portrait is set in each end of the cylinder. Thus anybody who visits the cemetery has an opportunity not only to read the inscription, but also to ascertain what the deceased looked like.

One of the most recent novelties in artificial stone is the manufacture of marble from chalk. The chalk, which is very porous, is placed in a bath of mineral oxide, which percolates through it and gives it color. It is the same process that nature employs and to which the various colorations of natural marble are due. The slab of chalk is then placed in a bath of liquid silicate, which permeates it in all its parts and cements its particles together. The result is a stone having the hardness and "ring" of real marble, and which is capable of receiving an exquisite polish.

A. R. Miranda of Boston, has invented an antiseptic razor cabinet, in which a man may keep his razors with a certainty that no objectionable germs will get on them. A part of the apparatus is a species of atomizer, with tube and bulb, by the help of which the scientific shaver gives his instruments an occasional spray-bath to disinfect them.

An automobile horse, which can be either ridden or driven, is the invention of a Frenchman named Constance Rousset, who has patented it in this country; it has a movable head by turning which the operator steers the mechanical beast. Its inside works, of course, are machinery, somewhat complicated, and it runs on wheels.

For the sick-room is a novel apparatus by which the patient may be lifted out of his bed and lowered again thereto without being disturbed, pulleys and a sort of net being employed. William L. Walton, of St. Louis, has devised a collapsible chicken-coop, which folds up like an opera hat when not in use. A rocking-chair with a fan attachment, the latter run by a weight, is suitable for old folks, while Johnny may want one of the new-fangled sleds patented by William A. Hartman, of Mayburg, Penn., a picture of which is shown herewith.

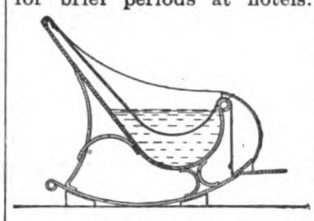


A NEW-FANGLED SLED.

In summer, however, Johnny may prefer to play with a curious toy invented by John T. Davey, of Ashland, Wis. It is a bow and arrow, but the latter, when the bow is sprung, transforms itself in the air into a parachute, which gracefully and slowly descends to the ground. The parachute in its flight upward, becomes detached from the shaft of the arrow, which is fastened to the bow and so does not get away very far.

An ear-drum exerciser is one of the newest inventions, and is supposed to be good for deafness. More interesting is a nut-cracking machine, patented by Edward T. Fenwick, of Washington, D. C. Nowadays the nuts that come to market—especially pecans and English walnuts—are not cracked by hand, because that would be too costly and troublesome a method. Machinery does the work vastly better, submitting each nut to exactly the right amount of pressure, and separating the kernels from the shell beautifully. Afterwards, likewise by an automatic device, the broken kernels are separated from the whole ones.

William Menges of Montgomery, Penn., has contrived a portable fire escape which is recommended for the use of travellers who, whether they like it or not, are obliged to stay for brief periods at hotels. Anybody who possesses this kind of a fire escape need not be anxious, inasmuch as he has only to open his valise and throw it out of the window in the event of an alarm, retaining in his hand the end of the folding ladder which the traveling bag ordinarily contains. The bag serves as an anchor for the ladder at the ground end, while the extremity held by the man at the window is easily attached to the sill, and he is at liberty to descend at his leisure.



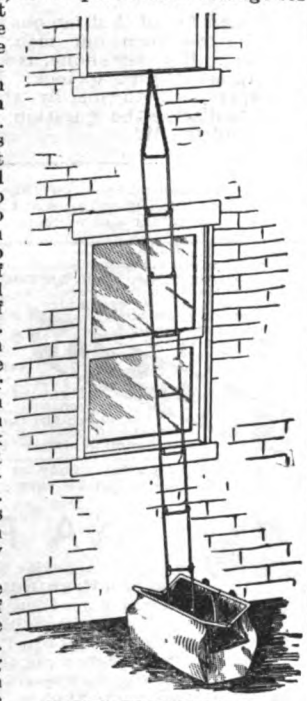
CHAIR AND BATH.

Housewives may be interested to learn of a newly-patented process for preserving bread—that is, for keeping bread fresh for a remarkable length of time. Having been baked at a high temperature, the loaves are taken out of the oven, cooled to 90 degrees Fahrenheit, and each of them wrapped as quickly as possible in an air-proof and water-proof paper.

Charles E. Fitzgerald has originated a method of preserving certain meat foods in such a way that they may be kept for a century perhaps without losing any of their freshness or edible quality. He puts them into flasks or other air-tight metal vessels, and subjects them in this condition to a high heat, so as to kill all the bacteria which would otherwise cause decomposition. It has been ascertained by experience that, though bacteria may be killed in this way, their spores are not destroyed; but the inventor keeps the spores from developing by injecting ærated gravy into the receptacles at a pressure of 100 pounds to the square inch. Thus there can be no decay, the vessels being sealed hermetically.

A German named Richard Straube has just patented in this country a combination rocking-chair and bath. It may be used as a hip-bath, or, if desired, it may be tilted at a different angle and employed like any ordinary bath. When it is not wanted for purposes of ablution, the water is simply emptied out of it, and a canvas cover affording a comfortable seat is stretched over it.

There have been a good many inventions lately for preserving the freshness of eggs. At the present time eggs are packed by millions in lime, salt, etc., or are put in cold storage for winter use; but such eggs are very apt to be found unsatisfactory when they come upon the market. Scientific tests have proved that the best of all ways to keep eggs fresh is to pack them in water-glass. To each 10 quarts of boiled water add one quart of water-glass. Pack the eggs in a jar, pour the solution over them, cover them well, keep them in a cool, dark place, and do not wash them before packing. Water-glass is silicate of potash and is extremely cheap.



NOVEL FIRE ESCAPE.

This is an age when all sorts of things are made in sections. Everything imaginable from a rifle to a house is turned out with convertible parts, so that if any portion is missing or broken, a duplicate can be obtained from the factory, guaranteed to fit perfectly. Americans have recently sent a great steel bridge to Gen. Kitchener in the Soudan, in sections, to be put together for spanning a large river. Steamboats are shipped to Africa in sections, carried around the cataracts of the Congo and other mighty rivers, and set afloat upon the waters of the interior of the Dark Continent. The newest thing in this line, however, is what is called the pioneer hut. It is made in a number of pieces, which can be put together by anybody in almost no time, and as easily dismounted and repacked for transport. When packed, it is contained in two boxes of moderate size. The hut is of steel, with a pine floor. It is said to be doing a great deal to further the interests of civilization in South Africa, inasmuch as by its help a whole town may be made to spring up literally in a single night. Furniture in the shape of folding beds, chairs and tables, with stoves and chimney supplied to order, complete a readily-transportable household equipment.

Max Bals, of Vienna, has just patented in the United States a machine for making matches out of pasteboard. The electric typewriter has come at last, and it may revolutionize the art of letter-writing. What the inventors seem to be after most urgently just at present, however, is some kind of practical apparatus that will get power from the tides or the sea-waves, and there is no doubt that they will solve the problem some day and harness this energy to machinery.

80 Square Inches Crazy Patchwork FREE.

Our Bargain book of Holiday presents and a skein of embroidery silk will be sent you, together with a lot of new and pretty silk pieces that will make over eighty square inches of crazy quilt or sofa pillow. Send six cents for a three months' subscription and we will send above, together with diagram showing latest fancy stitches. Also tells how to get a larger lot of silk and satin pieces free. Address, FAMILY HERALD, Augusta, Maine.

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THE NAT'L HEN INCUBATOR beats the old plan 3 to 1. Little in price but a big money maker. **Agents wanted.** Send for catalog telling how to get **One Free**
Natural Hen Incubator Co., B 32 Columbus, Neb.



Just as the Sun Went Down

Girl I Loved in Sunny Tennesee, You Can't Forget the Old Love, There's Where My Heart is To-night, She Was Happy Till She Met You, One Night in June, Just One Girl, In the Shades of the Pines, Teach Our Baby That I'm Dead, Mid the Green Fields of Virginia, Break the News to Mother, She Was Bred in Old Kentucky, Hello Ma Baby—all the latest hits, and nearly 200 other **POPULAR SONGS,** Rag-Time, Coon, Comic, Pathetic, Love Songs and many **Old Favorites,** with music, all for **10 CENTS** with our Music and Fashion Paper **THE BELLE, 3 months FREE.** Don't miss this offer. Address **STAR MUSIC CO., Station E., CHICAGO.**



CHATELAIN LOCKET FREE
to Ladies and Girls for One Day's Work.
This beautiful **SOLID GOLD** plated Chatelain Locket, by selling 12 pkg. XXX Bluing at 10c per pkg. Every pkg. makes 50c worth of Bluing. You can have choice of many other valuable premiums: solid gold rings, cameras, tea sets, musical instruments, bicycles, etc. We ask no money in advance; send name and address; we will forward Bluing and premium list prepaid. When Blu ng is sold, send the money and select you premium. An honest offer by a reliable house; goods not sold may be returned. Write to-day. BROCKSTEDT MERCANTILE HOUSE, 806 N. Bdwy, B 5, St. Louis, Mo.

A $5.00 SHAVING SET FOR ONLY $1.49.

OR SENT FREE FOR A CLUB OF FOUR.



The average man saves about **twenty-five dollars a year** by shaving himself and by having a good outfit, you can take comfort enough and save dollars enough to carry you over many rough places in life. We have tried to get up a practical shaving outfit for many years, but the expense of fitting out a suitable case of bang-up **A No. one** tools has been so great that not until a visit to Norway and Sweden revealed the fact that **Swedish Razors** were now the best in the world and the makers were anxious to prove it to the American people could we do so. Thus we **bargained** for a large lot of the best quality at very low figures. By getting the goods from different countries and buying in large lots, we have made up a case of great value at very small cost. These outfits come packed in cases eight inches long, six inches wide and five inches high. The combination consists of **1 Royal Steel Swedish Razor, single value $3.00; 1 Genuine, Horsehide, Double, Reversible, Canvass-back, Nickle-hung, Ebonized Handle Razor Strop, value $1.00; 1 Real China Shaving Mug; 1 Cake Star Shaving Soap; 1 Best Bristle, large handle Lather Brush; 1 Cake Perfumed Lump Magnesia; 1 Stick rich perfumed Cosmetic**—making a grand $5.00 combination, all packed in a compact case ready for shipment. We estimated that nearly every man in the country out of necessity shaves himself at some time or other during each month and one long wait in a barber shop sometimes costs more than this whole outfit is valued at. Every man should have an outfit in the house for emergency's use at all events and we have thus got it together at a low cost so as to be able to offer **the best** articles at the lowest cost. **Every woman** should see to it that either her Father, her Husband, her Brother or her Sweetheart has one of these outfits. They make the best presents one can give to a gentleman, and **you can get one free as follows: SPECIAL HOLIDAY PREMIUM OFFER. Send a club of four yearly subscribers to this paper at 25c. each and we will send an outfit, all charges paid; or send $1.49 in cash and we deliver it free—extending your subscription one year. Address COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.**

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 19.)

ration, the mountain stream gives to the peasant a bountiful gift, for in falling, the water deposits much waste rock material on the edge of the fiord which in time becomes a fertile delta plain covered with rich grass and capable of feeding herds of cattle. It is a strange sight to see, far above the water, a lonely hut perched on the brink of the cliff, and a toy-like cow or a couple of children playing on the grass by the cottage. Often these hanging homes can be reached only by a steep ascent from the water below. In this country such land would be abandoned as useless, but there it is held for generations by one family who are lords of it all as truly as though it were an ancient castle.

The peasants of Norway are thrifty and intelligent and most of them have a very flattering opinion of America. The men are strong and well built and the women are pleasing to look upon with their high white caps, their bright kerchiefs and bodices, above plain, full, woolen skirts and wooden shoes.

The northern portion of Norway has an extremely cold climate and there is but little vegetation beyond lichens and moss. Here live the strange little people of Mongolian type, the Lapps. Their great wealth is in reindeer, the wealthiest often owning herds of a thousand. The Lapps wander about from place to place, living a simple nomadic life, and almost entirely out of the pale of civilization.

Along the coast of northern Norway the cod



A FIORD.

fishing is an important industry, and every man of the settlement makes the best of the short season and the villages are deserted by the male population.

It is interesting to compare Norway and Greenland. Situated in the same latitude, one is covered with an unmelting sheet of ice, the other is visited by continual rain and fog. Greenland is buried under snow and ice all the year (except a narrow strip along the coast), and scarcely a tree is to be seen in the whole great land, while Norway is covered with forests of pine and orchards of fruit trees. So mild is it at Hammerfest, the most northern town of Norway, that the stream never freezes and yet 60,000 square miles of Scandinavia is within the polar zone. The mildness is, of course, due to the Gulf Stream which flows from the warm waters of the equator carrying warmth to the cold north. Were it not for this warm current the fiords of Norway would be filled with ice like those of Greenland, and the country would be uninhabitable, perhaps covered with a great ice sheet.

But the glory of Norway is its midnight sun. Imagine a day reaching round to the day again. Think of watching the sun move about the sky and not set, shining above the horizon at midnight like a belated traveler, lost on the path of the sky. At North Cape, far in the north of Norway, this scene may be witnessed and the trip thence is growing more popular each year. In all parts of Norway the days are very long in summer, the sun setting far into the evening. But then again comes the dark cold days of winter when for many months the sun is scarcely seen at all. To the people of the temperate zone it is hard to realize that this wonder is no wonder to the Norwegians, but as ordinary an affair as the coming of spring or the changing color of the leaves in the autumn.

The Norwegians are the descendants of those early Norsemen, those Vikings of old who sailed seas far and wide in open boats, conquering where they went. Much of the strength of the English speaking people may be attributed to their Norse ancestors, the Vikings, who descended from the cold land of the North with the music of the falls in their ears, and the memory of the rugged mountains always before them, and wherever they conquered they left the stamp of their own characters.

The Anderson Ellipsoid Safe Float.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



THE wreck of the Elbe is yet fresh in the minds of the people, with its loss of hundreds of lives and the millions in gold which it carried, together with its hundreds of mail pouches. It is to prevent such enormous losses of precious metal and mail matter that there is being built by the Cramps a device which is in reality the grand evolution of the corked bottle thrown over at sea bearing a message from some wrecked vessel.

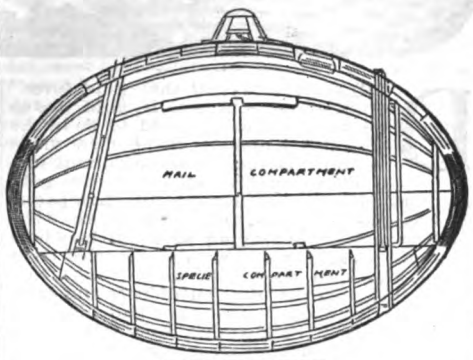
Josiah B. Anderson, the inventor of this device, was seen at his home recently and the plans and workings were fully explained.

"When I learned of the sinking of the Elbe," said Mr. Anderson, "I determined that if it was impossible to devise a means of saving the passengers at such a time, that I *would* contrive to invent a way of saving the mails and valuables. This safe float is the result of five years' thought and labor.

"This device, as the name indicates, is made in the shape of an egg; twenty-two feet long, fourteen feet wide and fourteen feet deep. It is to rest in a cradle on the after deck of the great ocean liners, from which it cannot be moved until, in case of shipwreck, the water comes about it as the ship goes down; then of its own buoyancy it floats until sighted and towed into port.

"Each float is, in reality, a mammoth safe. The outside armor is of the best nickel-plated steel, two inches in thickness; within this plate is a layer of asbestos; one of cork; one of asphaltum; and within all, an inside plate of steel; the whole making a shell ten inches thick. Thieves can no more effect an entrance to this float than they can crack a bank vault; it is fire, water and burglar proof.

"The instant the float touches the water, several means of calling attention to itself are automatically put in operation. A stream of fire,



SECTIONAL VIEW.

produced by phosphide of calcium, issues from the float to the height of eight feet, and will burn thirty days. An electric light burning white in fair weather and red in fog is lighted; an electric bell which can be heard three miles rings constantly, and the international flag of distress is hoisted.

"The float," continued Mr. Anderson, "is divided into three compartments; one for the mail, which will hold from six hundred to fifteen hundred pouches; another for the carrying of specie, which will stow away between eight and nine million dollars in gold; and a third containing the machinery and storage for valuables of the passengers.

"The amount of precious metals used to settle international alliance is astounding to the average person unfamiliar with banking. In one week in May, 1897, over seven million dollars in gold was exported from New York; hundreds of millions are sent across the ocean every year; gold flows in when we are selling more to Europe than we are buying and flows out again when the reverse is the case. My invention carries these vast sums absolutely without danger of loss, at once interesting banking-houses and winning their patronage. The requirements for the mail service are: 'by the most economic, quickest and safest method;' thus all governments will be forced to use the Ellipsoid. Passengers carry thousands of dollars worth of valuables with them when they cross the water and will make use of the



MAIL ROOM.

float's rented boxes. In every way will the float meet the demands of the world.

"The cost of each float is nineteen thousand six hundred dollars. A company is ready to do business, with a capital of fifteen million dollars behind it.

"The first float," said Mr. Anderson, in closing, "will make its maiden trip sometime in the early part of next year. We feel that nothing will occur which can disturb the plans and expectations of the company; the government's Naval Architect, Arthur B. Cassidy has approved and endorsed the Ellipsoid, and there is as much certainty of the float floating and proving a success as there is certainty of one of the United States' warships floating when it slips into the water from the stocks."

ORIGIN OF THE LOVING CUP.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



THE loving cup now so much used for prizes, had its origin, it is stated by Lord Lyon, British Ambassador at Paris, in an incident that occurred to King Henry of Navarre. While hunting one day he became separated from his companions and being thirsty, stopped at an inn for wine. The maid who handed it to him as he sat on his horse, neglected to present the handle. Some of the wine was spilled and the King's white gauntlets were spotted. The thought occurred to him while riding home, that a two-handled cup would prevent a repetition of this annoyance, so he had a two-handled cup made at the royal potteries and sent to the inn. On his next visit, when he again called for wine, what was his astonishment to behold the maid (who had received instruction from her mistress to be very careful of the King's cup) presenting it to him, holding it carefully by each of the handles. At once the happy idea struck him of a cup with three handles, which was promptly acted upon, as his majesty quaintly remarked: "Surely, out of three handles I shall be able to get one." Hence the loving cup.

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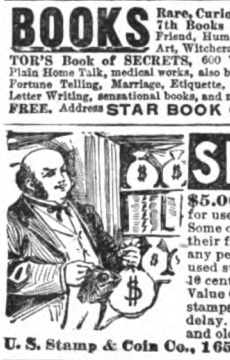
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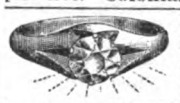
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THE JERUSALEM CHAMBER.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.

The room in which a king died, and a Bible was written.



THE Jersualem Chamber! There are few rooms in the world today to which the student of the Bible turns with more interest, few in which more varied associations linger. Built more than 600 years ago as the "withdrawing room" of the stately mansion which was the home of the Abbot of Westminster, it is still a part of the Dean's residence, and one of the most interesting adjuncts of Westminster Abbey.

The picture given with this article, of the magnificent west front of Westminster Abbey, shows the exterior of the Jerusalem Chamber, a square time-crumbled structure joined to a corner of the Abbey and just at the right of the great west doors which open only to royalty itself and to the ducal house of Northumberland. In this dark old room a king of England was laid upon the floor to die. Around the long oak table in the center of the room sat, many years ago, that body of godly men who compiled the Westminster catechism. Around the same table in our time gathered for their momentous work the eminent scholars who gave us the revised Bible.

Most visitors to Westminster never see the inside of the Jerusalem Chamber. They either wander about the Abbey alone, lost among a wilderness of monuments of fascinating history, or else they pay sixpence to be guided with a lot of other tourists through the so-called "royal" part of the Abbey. The verger who is the guide rattles off a cut-and-dried history of the most famous tombs, and then politely tells his company to "march on," and out. I found I couldn't ask a fraction of the questions I wanted to, and so when our verger-guide bowed my party out I hung back until I was last, and asked him if he had any spare time to himself during the day. The vergers are men employed to be in attendance in the Abbey. The name comes from a French word meaning "rod" because many years ago they carried a rod. Now they carry no rod, but wear a long black gown. This one was a young man, and unusually intelligent. He told me he had two hours to himself that afternoon, and I hired him for a few shillings to give them to showing me around alone. Money was never better spent, for besides all I learned that afternoon we became such good friends that afterwards I spent many pleasant and profitable hours there with him. He obtained permission from Dean Bradley to take me into many places into which most visitors are never allowed to go, even to unlocking and taking me inside that superb bronze fence which surrounds the tomb of Henry VII., the central object in that incomparable chapel which is the crowning glory of the Abbey. It was in this way that I came to see so much of the Jerusalem Chamber.

A natural first question is, "Why did the room receive this name?" Probably because the tapestries with which it was decorated represented scenes in the famous city. When Westminster was a palace many of the rooms were fancifully named for the same reason. Such were "Heaven" "Paradise" and the "Antioch Chamber." Even now there is a "Jericho Parlor," but my friend told me he suspected this had received the name these later years, because it is connected with the "Jerusalem Chamber" by such a long, narrow and crooked passage that the vergers had been in the habit of saying to themselves that it was "a Sabbath Day's journey" from one to the other.

Until recently, conservative English ideas of propriety did not provide any means of heating so sacred an edifice as Westminster Abbey, and for the first few centuries of existence the only fire-place in the whole great pile was in this room. Thus it happened that when King Henry IV. was stricken with a sudden fatal illness while praying in the Abbey before the blessed shrine of St. Edward, preparatory to starting on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, he was brought into this room. Of conveniences for such an emergency there were none, and the dying king was laid upon the floor in front of the fire-place, in which a good blaze was hastily kindled. When the monarch rallied from the first attack and asked where he was, he was told, "In the Jerusalem Chamber."

"Laud be to the Father of Heaven," he replied, "for now I know that the prophecy shall be fulfilled."

It seems that some time earlier in his life it had been foretold to King Henry that he should "die in Jerusalem." Satisfied that this was the decree of fate he sank back upon the floor and died.

It is interesting to know that when the Assembly of Divines met here in 1643 it was because they, too, were driven here by the cold. Their sessions were begun in the stately Henry VII. Chapel, but they were glad to move into the less pretentious but more comfortable smaller room. Since then there have been many memorable meetings there. In 1624, in the reign of James I., Lord Keeper Williams, Dean of Westminster, gave a great banquet there to the French ambassadors who had crossed the Channel to conclude the negotiations for the marriage of Princess Henrietta Maria to the Prince of Wales who was later to become Charles I. Even now there are carved wooden heads on each side the mantel over the famous fire-place, which represent this royal and unhappy couple.

Speaking of kings and queens and Westminster, I ought not to pass by the royal doors with the bare mention which I have given them. I say pass by, advisedly, for no common person passes through. These doors are in the center of the west front, between the two great towers, and almost crowded as can be seen, by the "Jerusalem Chamber." Although really the main entrance, the thousands of visitors to the Abbey go and come through "Solomon's Porch," a side door at the entrance to the north transept. Only for the sovereigns of the kingdom were the western doors opened, until, many years ago, a Duke of Northumberland did his monarch some such signal service that to him and his family was granted this royal prerogative.

CLIPPING BUREAUS.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



IT is now but eighteen years since a man with only fifty cents in his pocket was trying to devise some way to increase it. He observed an artist who had just completed a picture eagerly buying and paying large sums for late newspapers containing criticisms of his work, and the thought came to him that if people desired such things they would probably be willing to pay for having them collected and delivered; so he invested his fifty cents in a stock of old newspapers, and set about the clipping, assorting and sale of their contents. To-day 50,000 persons and $50,000,000 are engaged in the business of making and distributing newspaper clippings. There are between fifty and one hundred bureaus in the United States, nearly as many in England and on the continent, besides others at various places in Australia, China, South Africa, and South America, many of them being international. In this country six such bureaus have recently consolidated and capitalized their joint undertaking at $5,000,000.

Railway companies, telegraph lines, and express companies have recently ceased subscribing to these bureaus and have gone into the business on their own account, ordering their local agents to clip and file away every item concerning their affairs which should come in their way, and send the clippings to the main office. There they are classified and stored away, and often prove a mine of wealth to their owners.

Clipping bureaus are not all devoted to indiscriminate scissoring; many of them are specialists, and devote themselves solely to one class of items. Some are confined strictly to literary matters. These not only furnish criticisms and reviews of all new books and magazine articles but they provide the latest literary intelligence of every kind, and hence are of much use to the busy writer who desires to be kept abreast of the times in the literary world, but which would involve, were it not for the clipping bureau, hours spent daily in going over the columns of the newspapers and magazines. Five dollars per hundred is the price asked for such clippings, unless a special arrangement has been made with the bureau for the year.

W. T. Stead, a most prolific writer, and at present the editor of the Review of Reviews in London, has, it is said, three rooms filled with his scrap books of literary clippings, and it was through the reading of these that the idea was first evolved of the American Review of Reviews, which he first issued in 1891, and which has, in these few years, attained a high place among magazines.

W. D. Howells depends largely upon clipping bureaus to furnish the incidents from which his stories are woven, and many another author relies upon them for both plots and incidents.

Other bureaus are devoted to musical and theatrical matters, and are, of course, largely patronized by professional singers and actors, as the people of this class, in common with the rest of man and womankind, desire to know what the world says of them. Duse, in the course of two weeks, is said to have received two thousand eight hundred and eighty-eight personal clippings. Richard Mansfield's order excludes everything except items relating to his own personal playing, and yet his weekly clipping bill frequently amounts to $30.

All the prominent scientific men in Washington are regular subscribers to clipping bureaus, and each of them receives weekly or monthly instalments of clippings referring to his own line of work. He usually has one clerk whose duty it is to see that these are all properly classified, labelled, and arranged in scrap books. In the Geological Survey, for instance, a huge package of clippings from a prominent bureau comes each week to the Chief Clerk of the Survey; his stenographer assorts them into piles and sends them about the building by the messenger. To the geologists go all relating to the structure of the earth or to the mining interests of the country; to the forester goes everything relating to our forests, their destruction or preservation, forest fires, etc.

Medical men, even, have their bureaus from which they can procure all sorts of items relating to the study and practice of medicine and surgery.

The Queen of England and the Prince of Wales have their scrap book, Victoria's being filled for her by others, while her royal son frequently does his own scissoring and pasting. Uncle Sam has long kept scrap books for the use of his Chief Executive, who often finds them very valuable, although rumor has it that Cleveland opened one but once during his last term, and that was during the Venezuelan crisis.

It is said that Uncle Sam's clippings of the Civil War cost him $15,000, but his report of the Spanish-American War, which has just been sent to his archives, will, although it is in twenty large volumes bound in morocco, cost only $1,000, barely the expense of the making; but the bureau man has a duplicate set of the clippings, from the sale of which he hopes to reimburse himself.

Pages might be filled with descriptions of the different kinds of items called for. Their name is legion as the wants of man are numberless, but the bureau man is equal to all the demands made upon him, and the supply is equal to the demand. Edison, Tesla, Graham Bell, Trowbridge, calling for the latest news of electrical appliances, Oliver Iselin for cup races, and Defender's triumphs, the Cramps for shipping news, authors for items to weave into their stories, all are gratified and the world moves on.

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Agents Wanted. Send for New Catalogue, just out. OHIO ELECTRIC WORKS, Cleveland, Ohio. Headquarters for Electric Novelties, Supplies, Books.



$5.95 DIAMOND STUDDED CASE Solid 14 K Gold Plated Case, 3 Parisian Diamonds & Rubies Jeweled American movement, accurately regulated, stem wind and set. Warranted 20 years. Sent C.O.D. $5.95 with privilege of examination. Do not take from the express office if you think this watch is not equal in appearance to a $50 Watch. Mention nearest express office. Ladies' or Gents'. Agents & salesmen coin big money. Address EAGLE WATCH CO., 66 Malden Lane, New York.



5000 BICYCLES Overstock. Must be closed out Standard '99 Models guaranteed, $10 to $25. '98 & '97 models $8 to $15. Shopworn and second hand wheels, good machines, $3 to $10. Great Factory Clearing Sale. We ship anywhere, to any one, on approval and trial without a cent in advance. EARN A BICYCLE by helping us advertise our superb wheels. Easy work and sure reward on our new plan. We will give one Rider Agent in each town FREE USE of Sample Wheel to introduce them. Write at Once for Our Special Offer. B. O. MEAD CYCLE CO., Chicago, Ill.



FREE to BOYS and GIRLS We are giving away watches, cameras, solid gold rings, sporting goods, musical instruments, and many other valuable premiums to boys and girls for selling twenty of our SILVER ALUMINUM THIMBLES at 10 cts. each; package gold eyed needles given FREE with each thimble. Every lady buys soon as she sees it. NO MONEY REQUIRED--WE TRUST YOU Send us your name & address and we will send them postpaid with premium list and full instructions, when sold, send us the money and we will send you the present you select. Address AGENTS SUPPLY CO. 58 and 60 Wabash Ave., Dept. 147, CHICAGO, ILL.

FAT How to Reduce it Mrs. L. Lanier, Martin, Tenn., writes: "I reduced my weight 21 lbs. in 15 days without any unpleasant effects whatever," Purely vegetable, and harmless as water. Any one can make it at home at little expense. No starving. No sickness. We will mail a box of it and full particulars in a plain sealed package for 4 cents for postage, etc. HALL CHEMICAL CO. R Box St. Louis, Mo.

THIS IS A PIPE The only Pipe made that cannot be told from a cigar. Holds a large pipe-full of tobacco and lasts for years. Agents' outfit and a 25-cent sample by mail for 10 cents in stamps. New England Pipe Co., Dept. 6, Stamford, Conn.

$3.75 **$3.75 BUYS A $30 WATCH** The handsomest and best watch in the world for the money, superbly engraved, double Hunting case, stem wind and stem set, fitted with a high grade ruby jeweled movement, absolutely guaranteed for **25 YEARS.** Cut this out and send it to us and we will send you the watch by express for examination. If as represented, pay our special price $3.75 and express charges and it is yours. Mention if you desire ladies' or gents' size. Order today, as we will send out samples at this reduced price for 60 days only. CALUMET WATCH CO., Chicago

A Big Lot of Real Silk Also Stamped Satin & Plush REMNANTS FOR CRAZY PATCHWORK.



ART in needle work is on the advance. We know the ladies delight in odd pieces of silk and satin—"CRAZY QUILT" making is again VERY POPULAR. We are sure we have a bargain that all ladies will now delight in. Bright, handsome, odd-shaped, and pretty colored goods accumulate very fast at all NECKTIE FACTORIES; the styles were never so bright and pretty as they have been the past season and they are now burdened with remnants of many RICH GOODS. We have thousands of pieces of silk and satin on hand which we are going to give you a big trade on. People at a distance have hard times getting the right assortment to put into sofa-pillows, quilts, etc., and we can help you out now. We are going to dispose of this immense lot RIGHT OFF. Our packages contain from 99 to 168 pieces of the best quality assorted goods, and we want to get a lot introduced into every home; then you can order as you like for your friends, and MAKE MONEY doing our work and helping yourself also. Remember these pieces are carefully trimmed, and especially adapted to all sorts of fancy, art, and needle work. Many ladies sell tidies, fancy pillows, etc., at a great price made from these remnants. Order one sample lot now for only 25c. It would cost many dollars bought at a store. GRAND OFFER: If you order our great assorted lot AT ONCE, we will give you several rich, bright and beautiful **stamped satin pieces;** each piece contains nine square inches and being stamped **by hand** with a graceful design for embroidery, is a great bargain.

Five Skeins Embroidery Silks Free. In order to work your stamped satin and other pieces we also send absolutely FREE, five skeins of elegant embroidery silk, all different bright colors. This silk is worth nearly the price we ask for the remnants; but we know if you order ONE lot we will sell many in your locality, so make this liberal offer besides giving you a large and elegant piece of **Silk Plush** containing 36 square inches.

BEST WAY. We send ONE of the above complete assorted lots FREE to all who send 25 cents for 6 months' subscription to "COMFORT" the best Home Monthly now published, and in order to get you to advertise "COMFORT" and this big bargain to your friends and neighbors we will send **free** with each package our great book of **ONE HUNDRED ORNAMENTAL STITCHES IN EMBROIDERY. With Eight Full-Page Illustrations,** for ornamenting the seams of **Crazy Patchwork,** or for other ornamental work where Fancy Stitches are used it has no equal. It shows how pieces for patchwork may be put together to get the **best effect,** how to cover up seams with fancy stitches, **how to join edges, etc.**



The book illustrates over one hundred and fifty of these besides **directions** for taking **ART EMBROIDERY STITCHES.** Comprising the **Outline and Kensington Stitch, Arrasene and Chenille Embroidery, Ribbon Work, Plush or Tufted Stitch, etc. It also tells how to do Kensington Painting.**

Remember we send one big lot (over 100 pieces) Silk Remnants, the assorted stamped satin pieces; **5 skeins** Embroidery silk; 36 square inches silk plush, and a great 15c. book on embroidery, together with 6 months' subscription to "COMFORT," all for only 25 cents. Three lots and one year's subscription, 65 cents; five lots $1.00. Address, **COMFORT, Silk Dept. B., Augusta, Maine.**

Christmas Feasting the World Over.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



WHEREVER Christmas is known and observed the wide world through, feastings seem to make an important part of the festivities. It is an old saying, "the way to a man's heart is through his stomach," but at the Christmas season things seem to be reversed and men's hearts are burning within them to furnish pleasure to the gastronomic organs.

In Sweden, for instance, that snow-covered country, the people look forward to the coming of Christmas with more joy than in almost any other country. For days and weeks the preparations are going on for this greatest event of the year. The brewing must not be forgotten, and the supply of ale must be largely increased, for, besides what is needed for home consumption, there must be enough on hand to admit of offering a mug of it to the many Christmas callers who come laden with gifts and good wishes. White bread must, for this once, take the place of the brown cakes which are the common food of the people. Even the stock receive an extra supply of provender and sheaves of oats and other grain are fastened up in spots where they will be accessible to the wild birds. On Christmas Eve dinner is taken in the kitchen, partly to lighten the evening's work, but chiefly to enable the family to observe the ancient custom of "dipping in the pot." For this, ham, meat, tongue, etc., have been boiled together, and while the pot still hangs over the fire each member of the family takes a slice of bread and tries to dip it completely into the pot and remove it without having it break into pieces. When all have shown their skill the meat is eaten, after which comes rice and apple sauce. Later in the evening the famous Yule dish of codfish and potatoes is brought forth, followed by more rice, cooked as none but Swedes can cook it; but before a grain of this rice can be eaten each person present must recite a rhyme of his or her own composition. These are intended to show off some virtue or foible of some member of the family, and have probably cost their author weeks of work and thought.

In France the Christmas dinner includes the poulet cooked and garnished as only the French can do such things, and liver puddings rich with truffles and seasoning. Spain begins the dinner with a soup of sweet almonds and cream, followed by fish roasted before the fire and basted with lemon, chopped garlic and oil. Russia serves her national soup, which is a mixture of beef bouillion, boiled cabbage, sour cream and the fermented juice of beet roots. This may be had at any time during the entire day. At the dinner itself the principal dish is a pig roasted whole, and served with Casche, which is a dressing made of boiled buckwheat cooked with the liver and the heart of the pig. A relish eaten with this is the Pasca, a cheese creamed with butter, sugar and raisins, and allowed to stand twenty-four hours. And never is missing from this Christmas table the dish of bright-colored, hard-boiled eggs, which are eaten with salt.

The German dinner consists of roast goose, stuffed with chestnuts, pork boiled with sauerkraut, sausages, beef with sour sauce, black puddings, smoked goose, baked apples, and beer in unlimited amount. In Switzerland again goose is the principal dish. This is supplemented by Swiss confectionery, cakes, fruit and nut puddings, Geneva fritters, a paste made of fruits, spices, marmalade, eggs and kirsch. The Italian dinner, which is partaken of at any time in the evening between eight and midnight, boasts of eels as its principal dish. These are served one to each guest, each rolled in a laurel leaf. Portugal follows the lead of Russia in the choice of Christmas dinner, and feasts on sucking pig, while Alsace imitates Germany in its festival dishes.

Bohemia alone, among all the Christain countries, makes Christmas a day of rigorous fasting. Even children are expected to deny themselves all food from sunrise to sunset. This day is also a veritable collection day for workmen of every class, and the master of the house needs a pocketful of money to satisfy all the demands made upon him by the multitudinous artisans, musicians, pot-menders, bell-ringers, chimney-sweeps, cobblers, etc., who throng the house from early dawn to wish him a "Merry Christmas" and receive from him a remembrance.

In the mean time his wife, daughters and maid servants are busy all day long in the kitchen, whence issue odors most tantalizing to the fasting family. Towards sunset the last collector departs, the children are washed and arrayed in their Sunday clothes, the father and hired men quit work and don their best clothing, and the mother, daughters and servants also find time, amid their many duties, to deck themselves in all their finery, for all must be in readiness when the Angelus rings.

The ravishing whiffs from the kitchen are constantly increasing, and when at last the Angelus peals out its welcome summons all fasting is at an end, and the whole family, including servants and hired men, file into the dining-room, and range themselves around the table. All remain standing while the grandfather, if the family is so fortunate as to possess one, asks a blessing upon the food. Then all are seated and the simple but abundant meal begins. The menu is nearly the same throughout Bohemia, and consists of fish soup, gruel boiled with dried mushrooms, butter cakes smeared with prune marmalade, flapjacks with poppyseed or honey, fried or baked carp, hot; cold carp in black sauce, cakes, coffee, nuts and apples.

The supper is interrupted by a succession of roulades and blasts. It is the shepherd blowing his long horn, which is a familiar sound to all the village, and the shepherd himself is a most useful and important personage among these simple folk. He minds not only their sheep but also the swine, and cattle. He understands animal ailments, and is often a friend in need to the farmers when their domestic animals are suffering. So, although his call as collector comes at a most inconvenient hour of the festive day, he is none the less welcome, and is brought to the table and pressed in the kindliest manner to join the meal. His stay is short, however, as he has yet several places to visit, and the day is nearly ended; so he is allowed, somewhat unwillingly, to depart, and his mellow horn goes winding over the hills, growing fainter and fainter as he moves, while the family gather around the fire for an hour of social chat and story-telling. At eleven the older ones make preparations for a journey to the parish church, no matter how great the distance or what the weather, that they may end the day in devout adoration of Him whose birth into the world they have just been celebrating.

The Land of the Dark and the Sunlight.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



THE very name of Norway suggests everything that is picturesque and romantic, high mountains rising directly out of the sea leaving the deep valleys to be filled with water from the ocean, forming fiords, the long darkness of the winter and the daylight meeting dawn in the summer, the log huts of the peasants together with their gay dress and delightful manner, make the country one which will awaken interest in every lover of the beautiful and artistic.

Norway occupies the western half of the Scandinavian Peninsula and in most things is different from its neighbor, Sweden. In passing from the latter, a country of plateaux and wide plains dotted by hundreds of lakes, to Norway, one is impressed by the immediate change of scenery, for once over the boundary the level land disappears, all is rugged and mountainous.

All along the Atlantic coast the fiords cut deep into the land and wind like rivers for hundreds of miles from the ocean. In ancient geological times Norway was worn down to a level plain which was afterwards raised thousands of feet and the valleys worn out by the glaciers and streams, so that there are no giant mountains towering above their neighbors; but all of Norway is high. The fiords form the great wealth of Norway for it is here that the towns are built, here that the fisheries are carried on, here that vessels find anchorage and trade may prosper. About one eighth of the entire population are accommodated on the islands and the rugged sides of the fiords. For grandeur and beauty the Sogne Fiord excels all others. Extending more than one hundred miles inland, its wall of solid rock rises abruptly to heights of from four to five thousand feet casting a shadow upon the water and lending a sense of security to the traveller who seems entirely shut off from the world, and awed by the grandeur and silence of the scene. But the silence is broken again and again by the splash of the waterfalls from the heights above. Released from the glaciers and the everlasting snows of the mountain tops the water rushes to the edge of the cliffs, there to tumble and dash with a sparkle and spirit which can only be felt, to the fiords below. There is in these streams an animation which is most inspiring, like a spirit telling of great things to be accomplished, and with that sound ever in his ears one does not wonder that the Norwegian has always shown a spirit of unrest and a love of adventure. But beside an inspi-

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 17.)

A GIFT OF EMBROIDERY SILK.

Embroidery silk will cost you a lot of money bought at the store. We have a great jobbing-house lot of rich silk bought at wholesale. No high retail price with a lot of middle profits; but we get actual cost price. We want to give the whole benefit to our lady readers. We have prepared a lot of assorted packages containing a liberal supply of bright, rich, new silk in a variety of tones and shades, which would cost a heap of money bought at the stores. We will send our illustrated bargain list and full assorted, large sized silk package for the ridiculously low price of ten cents; or, three packages for twenty cents. Wr te to-day before the rush. S. W. LANE & Co., Augusta, Maine.

We furnish samples free to agents. F. S. Frost, Lubec, Me., sold $132.79, retail in 6 days. Write for Catalog, new goods, rapid sellers. RICHARDSON MFG. CO., C St., Bath, N. Y.

FAVORITE CAKE SPOON

for stirring and mixing batter of all kinds. Is useful as a skimmer and in one thousand and one ways. Sent post-paid on receipt of retail price, 15c. We are the largest manufacturers of Household Specialties in the U.S. AGENTS, write how to get this and others of our best selling novelties.—Outfit worth $2.00—FREE. All goods guaranteed to give satisfaction. Address Dept. X
HOUSEHOLD NOVELTY WORKS,
25 Randolph St., Chicago, Ill.
This Co. is worth a Million Dollars and is reliable.—Ed.

GEARHART'S IMPROVED KNITTER
WITH RIBBING ATTACHMENT.



Knits everything, from homespun or factory yarns, equal to hand knitting. Cheap, Practical, Simple. Illustrated instruction teaches you all about it. Only machine made with RIBBING ATTACHMENT. Ahead of all competitors. Satisfaction guaranteed. Money for agents. Plain and ribbed samples free. Address,
J. E. GEARHART, CLEARFIELD, PA.

MRS. DeMORT, Box OZ, Toledo, O., sends valuable toilet recipes to ladies FREE



celebrated "CALUMET PERFECTO" CIGARS we give every person buying a box of cigars for $2.50 a beautiful hand engraved stem wind and set "GOLD" WATCH, fitted with a SPECIAL AMERICAN, richly damaskeened nickel movement, GUARANTEED FOR 20 YRS. A handsome watch chain and a guarantee with every watch. Send this to us, and we will send you the cigars and premiums by express for examination. If you are satisfied, pay $2.50 and express charges CALUMET MFG. & IMPORTING CO., DEPT. 55, CHICAGO.

Clothing Salesmen Wanted.

$150.00 PER MONTH AND EXPENSES MADE BY ALL OUR ACTIVE MEN. WE PAY MANY FAR MORE.



RIO, WIS., June 20th, 1898.

GENTLEMEN:—In reply to your letter requesting the use of my photograph for advertising purposes, and asking how I am pleased with the work, would say I do not object to you using my photograph as your prices are very low and garments so exact to my measurements that I gladly recommend you. I would add that I have never made less than $80.00 per month since I received your first outfit, and in the best months have made as high as $350.00 per month. Very truly, E. J. DOYLE.
Should you write Mr. Doyle, be sure to enclose a 2c stamp for reply.
We have hundreds of letters similar to Mr. Doyle's.

WE WANT MEN IN EVERY COUNTY in the United States. If your reference is satisfactory we will start you at once. No experience necessary. No capital required. We furnish a full line of samples, stationery, etc. A tailor's-for-the-trade complete outfit ready for business. NO COMMISSION PLAN. You regulate your profits to suit yourself. No house-to-house canvass. This is not one of the many catchy advertisements for agents, but one of the very few advertisements offering a rare opportunity to secure strictly high-grade employment at BIG WAGES.

We are the LARGEST TAILORS in America. We make to measure over 300,000 suits annually. We occupy entire one of the largest business blocks in Chicago. We refer you to the Corn Exchange National Bank in Chicago, any Express or Railroad Co. in Chicago, any resident of Chicago. Before engaging with us, write to any friend in Chicago and ask them to come and see us, then write you if it is a rare opportunity to secure steady, high-class, big-paying employment. BETTER STILL—come to Chicago yourself and see us before engaging and satisfy yourself regarding every word we say. You can get steady work and big pay. Work in your own county 300 days in the year and you can't make less than $5 every day above all expenses. WE WANT TO ENGAGE YOU to take orders for our Made-to-Order-and-Measure Custom Tailoring, (Men's Suits, Pants and Overcoats). We put you in the way to take orders from almost every man in your county; a business better than a store with a $20,000.00 stock. You will have no competition.

WE ARE THE LARGEST TAILORS IN AMERICA
Of Fine Custom-Made Garments. We buy our cloth direct from the largest European and American Mills. We control the product of several Woolen Mills. We operate the most extensive and economic custom tailoring plant in existence, thus reducing the price of Suits and Overcoats made to order to $5.00 and upward; Pants from $1.50 to $5.00. We show a large line of suits at from $5.00 to $8.00. Prices so low that nearly everyone in your county will be glad to have their suits MADE TO ORDER.

WE FURNISH YOU a large, handsome leather-bound book, containing large cloth samples of our entire line of Suitings, Pantaloonings, etc., a book which COSTS US SEVERAL DOLLARS; also Fine Colored Fashion Plates, Instruction book, Tape Measure, Business Cards, Stationery, Advertising Matter, and your name and address on rubber stamp with pad complete. We also furnish you a Salesman's Net Confidential Price List. The prices are left blank under each description so you can fill in your own selling prices, arranging your profit to suit yourself. As soon as you receive your sample book and general outfit and have read our book of instructions carefully, which teaches you how to take orders, and marked in your selling price, you are ready for business and can begin taking orders from every one. At your low prices, business men, farmers and in fact every one will order their suits made. You can take several orders every day at $1.00 to $5.00 profit on every order. EVERY ONE WILL BE ASTONISHED AT YOUR LOW PRICES.

YOU REQUIRE NO MONEY. Just take the orders and send them to us, and we will make the garments within 5 days and send direct to your customers by express C. O. D., subject to examination and approval, at your selling price, and collect your full selling price, and every week we will send you a check for all your profit. You need collect no money, deliver no goods, simply go on taking orders, adding a liberal profit and we deliver the goods, collect all the money and every week promptly send you in one round check for your full profit for the week. NEARLY ALL OUR GOOD MEN GET A CHECK from us of AT LEAST $40.00 every week in the year.

THE OUTFIT IS FREE. We make no charge for the book and complete outfit, but as each outfit costs US SEVERAL DOLLARS, to protect ourselves against many who would impose on us by sending for the outfit with no intention of working, but merely out of idle curiosity, as a GUARANTEE OF GOOD FAITH on the part of EVERY APPLICANT, we require you to fill out the blank lines below, giving the names of two parties as reference, and further agreeing to pay, merely as a temporary deposit, ONE DOLLAR and express charges for the outfit, when received, if found as represented and really a sure way of making big wages. The $1.00 you agree to pay when outfit is received does not begin to pay the cost to us, but insures us you mean business. WE WILL REFUND YOUR $1.00 as soon as your orders have amounted to $25.00, Which amount you can take the first day you work.

Fill out the following lines carefully, sign your name, cut out and send to us, and the outfit will be sent you at once.

AMERICAN WOOLEN MILLS CO., West Side Enterprise Bldg., **CHICAGO, ILL.**

GENTLEMEN:—Please send me by express, C. O. D., subject to examination, your Sample Book and Complete Salesman's Outfit, as described above. I agree to examine it at the express office and if found exactly as represented and I feel I can make good big wages taking orders for you, I agree to pay the express agent, as a guarantee of good faith, and to show I mean business (merely as a temporary deposit), One Dollar and express charges, with the understanding the One Dollar is to be refunded to me as soon as my sales have amounted to $25.00. If not found as represented and I am not perfectly satisfied I shall not take the outfit or pay one cent.

..... Sign your name on above line.

..... Name of Postoffice, County and State on above line.

Your age .....

Married or single .....

Address your letters plainly to

....

..... On above two lines give as reference, names of two men over 21 years of age who have known you one year or longer.

..... On above line give name of your nearest express office.

AMERICAN WOOLEN MILLS CO., West Side Enterprise Bldg., **CHICAGO, ILL.**

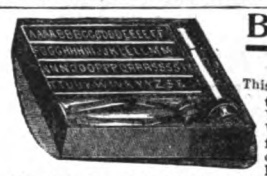
LEARN A PROFESSION in 10 days that will net you $25 a day the rest of your life. Ladies or gentlemen. Address with stamp. PROF. S. A. WELTMER, Nevada, Mo.

MARRY RICH Best Matrimonial Paper with Photos and particulars free. Large List; Both Sexes. Add. W.K. Mason, Montclair, N. J.

PILES ELECTROBOLE gives instant relief. Final cure in a few days, never returns; no purge, no salve, no knife. Remedy mailed Free. Address J. H. REEVES, Box 695, New York, N. Y.



YOUR BUST ENLARGED Six Inches. Failure Impossible. 1000 Testimonials. Full particulars sent sealed for two cents. AURUM MEDICINE CO., Dept. A. N. 55 State St., Chicago



BE YOUR OWN PRINTER.
A COMPLETE PRINTING OFFICE FREE.
This is the Biggest Offer in this paper. Please Read It

This outfit saves its price many times over by reduced printers bills. Contains a font of changeable rubber type, ink pad, tweezers and holder. You can print cards, mark clothing, boxes and papers, and make it useful in many ways. We will send you **this Outfit Free of Cost, also one 10 cent package best perfume, 36 New Songs** and our **Coin and Stamp Value Guide,** which tells you what old coins and used stamps are worth and who buys them. We will also send you a $1.00 Due Bill, which entitles you to $1.00 worth of goods **absolutely Free** from our list. **This Big Offer** is made to introduce our goods to new customers. We want you to trade with us and recommend us to your friends. We know you will do it when you get this lot of goods. Write today and we will send the entire lot to you. Enclose 12c. stamps for postage and packing. **WATSON SUPPLY CO., Dept. D. 871 DEARBORN ST., CHICAGO, ILL.**



Your husband just died of Heart Disease

DON'T DROP DEAD.

If your heart is healthy there is no danger, but the moment the heart makes known its presence in the bosom it is unhealthy and out of tune.

SUDDEN DEATH is in **close touch** with you if sharp or dull pains play around your left side, upper left arm, or under the left shoulder blade.

DEATH MAY CONTINUE YOUR SLEEP FOREVER if you are subject to violent starts in sleep, or if dizzy spells or fainting spells trouble you, or if you feel depressed in throat or chest, especially after eating.

DOES YOUR BREATH COME SHORT after going up stairs, or after hurrying, or otherwise exciting yourself? Yes! Then look out for **Death** for you **are in danger.**

SURE SIGNS OF A DISEASED HEART that cannot be mistaken are **palpitation,** or **fluttering, skipping a beat, dark specks in the vision, swelled ankles, desire to sleep after eating, unnaturally cold hands and feet.**

PUT US TO THE TEST.

TREATMENT FREE OF CHARGE. We have thus far over **5,000 Cures** to our credit. We wish to increase the number to **20,000.** Until that number is reached we will give the first treatment to those troubled with heart disease or any of the symptoms of that deadly disease free of charge. In its early stages **heart disease is curable,** but neglect a curable disease and it will rapidly develop into an incurability. There is but one end to an incurable disease—**death. Don't court death,** but write at once for our **absolute cure** of valvular and organic **Heart Disease,** an infallible preventive of all the complications which lead up to a **Diseased Heart. We send one box free.**

THE GIANT OXIE CO., Box 1263, Augusta, Maine.

HA! HA! HA! FUN ALIVE!
The Comical Mirror.



A handsome convex mirror in a case suitable for carrying in the pocket. For many years the funniest and most laughable attraction in nearly every museum has been the large convex mirrors in which a person appears drawn out as long and narrow as a bean pole, or flattened down like a gridiron with a face as broad as a cellar door. This mirror produces the same effect as the large and expensive mirrors in the museums.

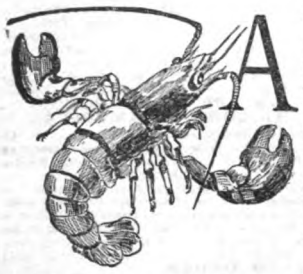


By holding the mirror in an upright position stout people look thin and in a horizontal position thin people look stout; anyone can recognize themselves at once, but their features are so distorted and their general appearance so changed that they cannot fail to have a good laugh over it. If you have a friend (lady or gentleman) who think they are a little better looking than anyone else, let them take a peep into the mirror and it will take them down a peg or two—either the "short and fat" view or the "long and slim" view are stunners and will cure the blues every time. Send for one it will afford you lots of fun.

GRAND OFFER TO YOU. Send us **12** cents and we will send this splendid literary monthly for the Home, three whole months on a trial subscription and one Comical Mirror, postpaid; for **27** cents we will send you the paper 3 months and **three** mirrors all paid; or, for only **76** cents we will send the paper a whole year and one dozen mirrors by express Address COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.



CONDUCTED BY AUNT SARAH.



ALMOST every one at some time has to entertain a large number of guests,—either at an At Home, a wedding reception, or a tea to introduce some visiting friend, or to usher a daughter into society.

Now when there are a hundred or two to cater for, the question of expense enters largely into the arrangements, with most of us, and where one is obliged to go to a caterer and give an order for every item, this expense is extreme. But if a woman cares to go to the trouble of doing it, she can get up a very delicate and satisfactory lay-out at two-thirds the expense the same refreshment would cost if furnished by a caterer,—and in many cases it would be more satisfactory. Of course this means hard work and great care—but the result often more than pays one for the amount of work expended—and then there is the satisfaction of knowing that at least a third of the expense is thereby saved.

The usual refreshment offered for such occasions is salads, rolls, fancy cakes and ices. Of course this may be made more elaborate by adding a hot course—of croquettes or something of that sort,—but unless it is to be a lunch, in the middle of a very cold day, anything of this kind is not necessary. Instead, one might have hot bouilion, which is easier to prepare and to serve.

Of course one must hire from a caterer extra dishes—plates, glasses for the ice, and possibly, silver; if, therefore, one feels that to make the ices for so large a company is too much to undertake, these may also be ordered from the caterer, thereby saving much work; but almost any one at all familiar with the cooking of dainty dishes would be able to make the mayonnaise dressing for any amount of any kind of a salad that may be decided upon, also the sandwiches or rolls, and cakes. Then, too, almonds may be blanched and salted, also peanuts and pecans, if desired. And don't forget some preserved ginger, which is not only a much-enjoyed dainty to top off with, but is also useful in aiding the digestion. (This can be said of few of the confections one is offered at a lunch.)

We show in our illustration a new salad called the "Admiral." Of course no one could possibly guess for whom it is named! It is the more appropriate as it is concocted of something that loves the ocean.

For this salad the recipe tells us to mix equal parts of finely cut celery and lobster meat cut in dice; pour over this a French dressing, which is made of three tablespoons vinegar to six of olive oil, one-half teaspoon salt and one-fourth cayenne or paprica. If desired, a small quantity of mayonnaise may be added to this—or it may be omitted. Arrange in baskets made from lobster shell, sprinkle with lobster coral, which has been put through the ricer, and garnish with curled celery. The claws of the lobster are used as handles to the baskets. Serve on lettuce leaves. Of course if one is to serve to a large number of people, individual arrangement could not be made, as there would not be shell enough wherewith to form the baskets.

There are some people who think the opening of a lobster is a great undertaking, and therefore have it done at the market before the lobster is brought home; this is quite wrong, as the fresh flavor of the lobster is thereby lost, and there really is very little work in the opening of one. If buying the lobster yourself, be sure to see that the tail curls up stiffly, toward the body, as that shows that the lobster was alive when put into the water to boil.

In opening a lobster, first take off the large and small claws; then break off the tail and cut out the inside shell with scissors, so that the long piece of meat in the tail may be removed without being broken. After being removed, take out the intestinal vein which runs through the centre of it and throw away. This is the only bad part of the lobster. Take out the small pieces of meat in the body where the small claws have been removed by means of a



ADMIRAL SALAD.

fork. Crack the large claws with a hammer, or they may be cut with heavy scissors, and remove the meat. Use the outer shell of the lobster for the making of the baskets; two may be made of the body shell and one of the tail shell—by trimming them into shape with scissors. (Be sure and don't get the *lamp* scissors!)

Now for the mayonnaise dressing—as, if one has a chicken salad, or usually, one of lobster, that is the dressing to be used.

Mix one-half teaspoonful each of mustard, salt, and powdered sugar; add the yolks of two eggs and one-half teaspoonful of vinegar. Add gradually three-fourths cup olive oil. As the mixture thickens thin it with vinegar and lemon juice, adding alternately one tablespoonful of each. Now this sounds simple enough, but unless made very carefully it is not always a success. It is exceedingly hard to make it when one is alone, as there should be one to stir and one to pour on the oil, drop by drop, so that separation may not take place and thereby give it a curdled appearance. After the dry ingredients and the eggs and vinegar have been blended by means of a small wooden spoon, this mixture should be stirred continually by one person, while some one else drops in the oil, very slowly, until at least half the oil has gone in; then it can be put in faster; as it thickens, the vinegar and lemon juice must be added very slowly, for the same reason that the oil is.

This dressing will keep for weeks, if in a tightly corked bottle and in the ice box; and the housewife always feels a little more comfortable if she has some on hand, for then she knows that a salad may be gotten up very quickly in case of unexpected company.

Speaking of unexpected company—it is a good idea to also have on hand some cans of soup, for just such an emergency—and then when one has company to lunch all that has to be done is to warm the soup, have a lettuce salad for a second course, with bread and butter, and for a sweet course after this have some fried bread with hot maple syrup. For this cut the slices of bread and dip them into beaten egg to which a little milk has been added, and fry in butter. Serve hot, on hot plates, with hot maple syrup, or, if you haven't the syrup, serve strawberry or plum preserve.

If you happen to *know* you are going to have company for lunch, make some rolled bread sandwiches. To do this, immediately after breakfast wrap freshly baked bread in a cloth wrung out of cold water, then cover with a dry cloth. Let it stand three hours if possible. Then cut into the thinnest possible slices, butter each, remove crusts and roll. Usually they will stay rolled, but if there seems to be a tendency to unroll, have a ball of soft white string and as each is rolled tie it loosely around with the string—to be removed, of course, just before being brought to the table.

Now for a new recipe for an ice, which is called Cup St. Jacques, and which is served at The Touraine, in Boston, for fifty cents an order. This sounds as though it might be an extravagant concoction, but it is not any more so than any other ice. Depends on whether you *make* it or order it at The Touraine.



CUP ST. JACQUES.

Make a syrup by boiling four cups water and two cups sugar twenty minutes; add three-fourths cup lemon juice; cool, strain and freeze. Serve in champagne glasses, filling the glass only to the top; then pour over the ice a teaspoonful maraschino and pile up on the ice fresh fruit and candied cherries. The fruit is usually cut bananas and about three Malaga grapes; this may be varied according to the time of year, and fresh strawberries or pineapple would be equally delicious. As the ice is perfectly white this dish lends itself prettily to arrangement of color, and if strawberries were used one would not care to use the candied cherries, but simply the white or green grapes with the berries and ice; in case of the banana or pineapple, however, the cherries give the needed touch of bright color.

Our illustration shows the way this ice is served at The Touraine, but if one has the glass cups with handles, usually used for serving punch, and has not the champagne glasses, they may be decorated in the same way and look almost as well.

Please bear in mind, when using these recipes, that all measurements are *level*, as we have stated several times in the past.

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It IS rarely the case that a member of the House of Representatives can hold the same seat during two successive terms of Congress, while a Senator may hold the same seat as long as he remains a member of the upper chamber. The method of alloting seats in the Senate is entirely different from that which prevails in the House. At the beginning of Congress, the House of Representatives holds a sort of seat-lottery—that is to say, the members draw for choice of seats. The man who is so fortunate as to get the first choice may select any seat he prefers on his side of the House; the man who gets the second choice may select any seat left after the first man has chosen, and so on till the whole house is seated—the republicans selecting seats on the republican-side and the democrats selecting seats on the democratic-side of the chamber. It sometimes happens, however, that "the father of the House" (that is, the oldest member of the House, measured by the test of continuous service), is allowed to make his selection independently of the seat-lottery. But in the Senate, an entirely different rule prevails. The constitutional distribution of the terms of United States Senators is such that one-third of them reach the end of their current terms every two years, and must either succeed themselves by re-election or give place to new men. So that it is an ancient custom in the Senate to allow any Senator whose term is not to expire at the time to "file-on" any seat which is about to become vacant by reason of the expiration of the term of its present occupant; and the one who first files his claim with the sergeant-at-arms gets the seat when it becomes vacant. The result is that, as soon as a Senator gets fairly settled in his first seat (which is not usually a very desirable one), he begins to look around for the seat of some other Senator whose location is considered desirable over his own and who is not likely to be re-elected. This process of filing on the seat of another Senator consists in filing with the sergeant-at-arms a request for the seat when it becomes vacant; and, if the seat actually becomes vacant, the one who files the first claim gets it; but, if the Senator who occupies it succeeds in getting re-elected, the one who files on his seat gets left and must begin the "looking-around" process again.

This custom has naturally given rise to a great many interesting stories relative to the alertness of Senators in filing claims on the seats of other Senators whose political suns were supposed to be setting. It often happens that fortune so favors a Senator that he gets a very desirable seat early in his senatorial career—Senator Gear, of Iowa, affords an instance of this kind. He occupies the seat once held by Roscoe Conkling, of New York. When Conkling resigned on account of his quarrel with President Garfield, no one had filed on his seat, as no one knew in advance that it was to become vacant; but Conkling requested Cameron, of Pennsylvania, to hold his seat for him for a couple of days—till he could run up to Albany and secure a re-election. He did not secure his re-election, however, and Cameron held the seat permanently. Years afterwards, Cameron met Dawes, of Massachusetts, somewhere west and confided to him the information that he (Cameron) would not be a candidate for re-election; whereupon, Dawes filed on Cameron's seat and got it when Cameron retired from the Senate. This same seat was held by Dubois when he walked out of the St. Louis convention with Senator Teller and others in 1896; so Senator Gear had an idea that Dubois would never be re-elected to the Senate and filed on his seat and got it when Dubois retired. Tradition says that ex-Senator John H. Reagan, of Texas, had the habit, when he was a member of the Senate, of changing around from seat to seat—occupying the seat of any Senator who happened to be temporarily absent on account of illness or business out of the city; and it was also a coincidence that some of these Senators whose seats Reagan had thus occupied managed to die during their terms in the Senate—so that Reagan got to be regarded as a sort of Senatorial "hoodoo." Senator Zeb Vance, of North Carolina, was a sort of wag and never missed an opportunity to perpetrate a joke on any one, no matter who it was. One day, he happened to be detained away from the Chamber by illness, and he wrote a note, begging pathetically, "For God's sake don't let Reagan get my chair"——and his chair was removed bodily from the Chamber to keep Reagan out of it.

When Senator George H. Pendleton, of Ohio, was in the Senate, he occupied a very desirable seat; but, when he succeeded in getting the Civil Service Act passed, Senator Vest, of Missouri, said that no man who would be the author of such a measure as that could ever be re-elected to the Senate of the United States and filed on Pendleton's seat—and got it, for Pendleton was not returned when his term expired. It is not often that two Senators from the same State sit next to each other; but, by swapping seats, the Senators from Arkansas, Missouri, Massachusetts and Iowa occupy adjacent seats.

But, when a Senator changes his seat, he changes only its location, for he retains the same chair and desk. The late Senator Morrill, of Vermont, who far exceeded "Benton's thirty years in the Senate," occupied the same chair and desk throughout his long senatorial career.

Records have been kept of each desk since the end of the Civil War, but there is nothing authentic concerning earlier times; so that the oldest man connected with the Senate knows nothing about the seats of the great men of the past. Hannibal Hamlin was allowed to take his chair with him when he retired from the Senate, but that courtesy has not been extended to any one since that time because of the increased historic interest which attaches to these seats after they have been long in service and been occupied by some of the great men of the country. In this connection a story is told. Some twenty-odd years ago, a lot of furniture which had been worn out by long usage was permanently retired from the cloak-rooms. There was such a tremendous demand for this old furniture among lovers of such relics and there was so much pressure brought to bear by those who sought them—such high prices offered, that, finally, a resolution was passed by which the furniture was turned over to a certain hospital to be raffled-off in a way which would raise considerable money for a public charity. So that, the next day, two ladies who were very anxious for some particular pieces hurried out to the hospital with large sums of money for the purpose of paying almost any price for what they sought; but, to their amazemennt when they got there, they were blandly told by the janitor that he had chopped them all up for kindling the night before.

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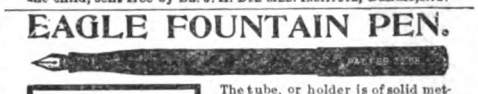
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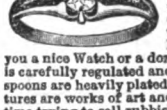


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I want to Marry! I am just 22, 4 feet 11 inches tall, weigh 130, dark hair and blue eyes, a blonde, very fair complexion, nice plump form, American, kind disposition, highly educated, Protestant, five years experience in housework and cooking. Have property worth $2,000 and will inherit $1,500. Wish to marry a kind-hearted bachelor or widower, not over 35, who is industrious. All letters answered. ☞ The above and hundreds of other "Personals" from ladies and gents, with photos and addresses, many rich, can be found in **The Garden City Belle,** the brightest and best marriage paper published, old and reliable; conducted on a thoroughly honorable plan. Sent 3 months FREE. Don't miss it. Address **THE BELLE, 1640 OHIO ST., CHICAGO, ILL.**

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SOMETHING FOR NOTHING **ABSOLUTELY NO CONDITIONS**



A PRIZE
FOR EVERY CORRECT ANSWER.
DON'T SEND ONE CENT.

To all who can find in the accompanying Picture Puzzle Admiral Dewey's head in outline, mark it and return to us, we will send at once, without further conditions, a magnificent Tiffany Style Stick Pin, set with an exquisite simulative ruby. Our object in making this marvelous offer is to introduce Imperishable Violet Perfume, and to those awarded a pin we will send also 12 packages perfume to sell for us, if you can, at 10 cents each. When sold return our money and we will give you free for this service your choice of a Heavy Plated **Curb Chain Bracelet,** with padlock and key, or a genuine **Solid Gold Shell Belcher Birthday Ring.** To all who answer this WITHIN THREE DAYS from when first seen, we send with your ring or bracelet a **Pearl Bangle Gold Finished Initial Stick Pin.** This is a fair, open and honorable proposition. Simply interpret our puzzle and we will send your prize at once, without money or price. Write immediately; don't put off till to-morrow what can be done to-day. Mention this paper,



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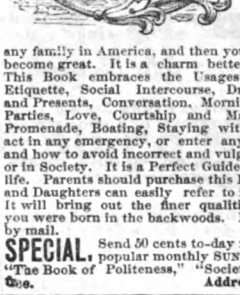


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TALKS WITH GIRLS.

CONDUCTED BY COUSIN MARION.

How do you do, dears. I have been away taking a little rest, which came so unexpectedly that I did not have a chance to say good-by to you or to ask you to wish me well until we met again. Now I come back and I find so many letters from you that I am glad I didn't stay any longer. I hope you have enjoyed yourselves as much while I was away as I did.

The first I come to is from Fleet of Normal, Ills. and she wants to know what to do when young men whom she knows make remarks about her loud enough to be heard in passing. You ought to call the police, dear, but you can't, and must ignore the remarks and also the young men who make them.

Adella, Long Prairie, Minn.—Stop loving the man who doesn't love you. You ought to know better. (2) Yes, a girl can receive the attentions of more than one man, but not seriously. (3) It is proper to dance round dances if your parents or church do not object.

Beauty, Colgate, Ind.—Bowen & Merrill, Indianapolis, Ind.

Discouragement, Providence, R. I.—You had better speak to your physician. Quacks and nostrums are of no value. Massage ought to be of value.

Cynthia, Indian Orchard, Mass.—You are young enough not to worry about the persistent young man. He will get over it by and by. (2) Girls of sixteen don't wear trains.

Little Fairy, Waynesburg, Pa.—Don't try to sell your song until a musician has put it in proper shape. Good songs pay well.

Blue Eyes, Harrison, Miss.—Permit no familiarities from the young man, however much you like him. Indeed, that is more reason why you should not. (2) The "rattling" you speak of can only be cured by a course of treatment. Consult a physician. (3) Simply excuse yourself and say nothing. (4) I suppose it would be all right to go ten miles at night with a young man to church in the country. City people, however, would say you should have a chaperone.

Enid, Toledo, Iowa.—A young man should go home by 10.30. (2) Yes, if the other young man does not object. (3) You should always give your "steady company" the preference. (4) It is not right for a lady to accept a fifty cent ring from a young gentleman unless he can't afford a better one.

Skipper, New Columbus, Ky.—If the young man means marriage he should say so, otherwise you should not permit his attentions. You may go out at night with a young man, but kissing is not "nice."

Mac, Thomas, W. Va.—Don't trust too much to what a young man says.

Fifteen, Lakewood, N. J.—It is wrong for a girl of fifteen to "except" the photograph of a young man until she knows how to spell.

Sweet Violet, Bunola, Pa.—A girl should always take the advice of her parents regarding the young men she associates with.

Elaine, Toledo, Iowa.—The young man you have been "going with" for two years is entirely too indifferent. Don't waste any more time on him.

"Constant Reader," Lafontaine, Kans.—Ask your nearest music dealer for the song you want. (2) A woman of twenty-one may marry a widower of thirty-seven, either with or without children, but being a good stepmother is hard work.

Modest, Pensacola, Fla.—If you are engaged to the young man you may kiss him when he goes away. Otherwise not.

Sallie Belle, Tuckersville, Ga.—Use plain unruled white or tinted paper in your correspondence. (2) Runaway marriages sometimes turn out very well, but don't run away if you can help it. (3) Wear as many "friendship hearts" on your bracelet as you can get. (4) Introduce, or present, the man to the woman, always.

Sorena, Welisville, Ohio.—There is a proper form for a letter to a person you have not met. Don't write letters to strangers at all.

Joe, Talbot, Ind.—Eight years is too long to wait for a man to make love and say nothing of marriage. Try some one else.

N. N. D., Peru, Ind.—A girl of seventeen may love a man of twenty-eight, but it is much better for a girl of twenty-one to love a man of thirty-two.

Lily White, Aramore, I. T.—For the millionth time let me tell all the cousins that it is simply horrid to be hugging and kissing. It seems to me you ought to know better.

Queen Elizabeth, Oregon, Mo.—No girl can be in love with two men at the same time. You don't know your own mind, that is all. Wait five years.

City Belle, Shawtown, O.—"Thank you," is a very good reply to make to the greeting: "Happy to meet you."

Puss and Pet, Tempe, Ariz.—I suppose it is all right to keep the cowboys to rope and drive cattle, but young ladies don't do so in the East. (2) You might answer the soldier's letter from the Philippines. (3) Girls should never use slang.

Lilith, Saginaw, Mich.—Charlotte M. Braeme and Bertha M. Clay are not the same.

Pink, Morgan, Ky.—Young men should not stay after church till twelve o'clock. (2) Girls should not call on young men camping unless they are chaperoned. (3) Introduce the young man as "Mr." and not by his initials. It is undignified.

Peach Blossom, MacGraw, Kan.—You had better be very careful about "hair removers." Ask your physician.

N. B. Jasper Penn.—You should talk to your physician. "Institutes" are risky.

Thelma, Davenport, Ia.—Miss Alcott's books are not sold in cheap form, I believe. (2) You may call on a bride though you do not know the groom. Why not? (3) You may call on friends though in mourning. (4) Let your beau go, if he doesn't want to stay.

Lu, Spokane, Wash.—Why send off twelve cents and a lock of your hair to have your fortune told when you can do it just as well yourself? (2) Don't exchange photographs with young men. (3) Presents may be accepted from young men, but only simple ones; candy, flowers, and books.

Ygonde, Atha, O.—Whatever you do don't marry the man who drinks. It isn't necessary to marry a man you do not love. Remain single and the man you love may reform.

A Friend of Girls, Denver, Col.—Writes to object to the "advise" I give these cousins of mine. Possibly if this "Friend" learned to spell, she might write differently.

Florrie M., Wilmington, N. C.—Consult any music publisher about your song. (2) Straight hair will not be kept in curl in damp weather.

Belle Dial, Weston, Iowa.—Yes, you may accept another escort when the first one is not prompt. (2) Evidently the young man is not seriously in love with you.

Distress, Gas City, Ind.—Don't take arsenic for the skin unless you consult your physician.

Julia S., Zionsville, Ind.—There is always danger in trying to remove superfluous hair. Ask a druggist or a barber.

Cherry, Marion, Iowa:—Your letter was sent to the Navy Department at Washington to be forwarded.

Violet, Strongsville, Ohio.—Engagement rings are always customary and you should have one. (2) A rosebud means budding love.

Rosy, Louisville, Ky.—Organize your society without a charter. It will be time enough to get a charter when you extend it to other towns and chapters.

Carry M., Wilcox, Mo.—It is the lady's place to speak first. (2) When the "mitten" has been given to a man nothing more is to be done than get another man to take his place.

Rose, Hudsonville, Mich.—Cancelled stamps are bought by stamp dealers generally. See advertisements in COMFORT. (2) Yes, the young man's parents should make an effort to know what kind of a woman he is to marry.

Maggie K., Chicago, Ills.—The government does not offer a premium for seventh sons. Where did you ever get that idea?

Now, dears, some of you are answered and some are not, but you will be by and by. Here's wishing you a very Merry Christmas.

COUSIN MARION.

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Reader, do you desire to become a Hypnotist? Do you want to know how to utilize the most powerful and mysterious force of nature? Do you value control over others? Do you value the means of securing friendship, love and personal influence? Do you value the power to conquer pain and banish sickness, to reform a misguided friend, to gain business success, to win wealth, position and happiness? If you do, you must learn to Hypnotize. Why not? No other accomplishment is so easily acquired. It can be mastered in a few hours time, without leaving your home. It costs nothing to find out all about it. The greatest Hypnotist of the century has just issued in book form a large and exhaustive **TREATISE, or Instructor in Hypnotism,** covering the whole ground of his Science, and he will send it while the edition lasts, absolutely **FREE TO ALL** who apply. The book is profusely illustrated, containing hundreds of beautiful and artistic engravings, and shows as never was done before the principles, features, wonders and uses of this mysterious Science, all in a popular and pleasing style. It tells you just what Hypnotism is, and what you may accomplish with it. It shows you how you may sway the minds of others, perform astounding feats and produce amusement by the hour. New and instantaneous methods. Success absolutely guaranteed. Remember, this grand work costs you nothing. It benefits everybody who reads it. It places you in touch with the wonder-science of the age. Read it anyhow. It is absolutely **FREE.** A postal card will bring it by return mail, all charges paid. Apply at once to



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BIG XMAS BOX **10 CENTS** gets our **BIG XMAS BOX.** Just to introduce our goods. Thousands delighted. Contains **1** Fountain Pen, **1** lm. **Gold Band Ring, 1** Case Lovely Perfume, **1 False Mustache, 1** pack Hold to Light Cards, **1 Lover's Guide, 120 Choice Photos, 1** pkg. French Candies, **1** pkg. Turkish Powder, **1** Useful Rubber Invention, **1** Comic Motto Button, **1 Coin Value Guide, 1** Yellow Kid Stick Pin, **1 Big Book of 500 Pictures,** and a **Prize Coupon** which entitles you to a handsome Gold plated **Watch Chain and Charm.** This is no humbug or fake offer. You get everything mentioned above by return mail by sending only **10 cents** (stamps) to **STAR NOVELTY CO., Garfield Park, CHICAGO.**

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CONDUCTED BY REGULUS.



JANUARY begins with a New Moon and ends with a New Moon. A figure erected for the time of the conjunction at 44 minutes past 8 o'clock in the morning on New Year's Day shows the first decanate of the sign Aquarius rising, with Venus just ascending and the last decanate of Scorpio culminating. The ruler of the scheme is located in the tenth house in the sign Sagittarius in which is also found the great benefic Jupiter. The Lunation falls in the 12th house within 4 degrees of Mars; Saturn is in the 11th house near the cusp of which Mercury stands in the Moon's Node. The indications of the figure are in the main good and indicate a high degree of prosperity and success for our Nation and our people in the mass. There are some discordant elements, it is true, prominent among which are the treacherous actions of some secret enemies of the administration who not only do not work for or promote the public welfare but seek the injury of the Nation by treacherous methods. The great benefic Jupiter so near the South meridian and the lesser benefic Venus just rising, thus benevolently occupying the two most powerful angles of the figure, indicates that for the month the nation continues its steady progress and is prosperous and successful despite the mischievous efforts for harm. Congress will work harmoniously for the public good notwithstanding Saturn in the 11th shows some treacherous action of malcontents.

A disagreeable feature of the figure is the presence of the inflammatory Mars near the conjoined luminaries, pointing to some violence to prisoners or the outbreak of some epidemic or eruptive disease among soldiers in southeastern regions. Disorderly elements in prison or places of detention in those regions may succeed in escaping from the authorities or in working violent harm to keepers or guards. The month will probably give more than usual contention and fires are likely to be very destructive. Troubles of minor character near the Mexican border are threatened. There will be increased mortality from eruptive diseases, or such as affect the digestive organs and the kidneys and head; and persons subject to apoplectic troubles should exercise unusual care throughout January. The same conditions emphasize the injunction for all to be temperate in habit and to abstain from the use of intoxicating drinks, especially those with apoplectic tendencies.

CELESTIAL CALENDAR FOR JANUARY, 1900.

JANUARY 1—Monday. Form no hasty conclusions in business during this day; litigation and contention are likely to interfere seriously with the happy outcome of affairs of magnitude or importance now begun; be not rash in thought or act and scrutinize carefully all business enterprises now presenting themselves; seek no promotion in public positions, be patient with thine associates and do not offend thine employer. Conditions are very threatening and caution more than ordinary prudence in all business ventures; combustion is quickened and some bad fires, explosions and violent disasters are very probable in these passing days and much increased mortality from kidney and digestive troubles, apoplexy and from hemorrhages and violence will be noticed. All persons born about the 4th of April, July, October and January of past years, will need to exercise more than ordinary care in finances and should be very prudent in diet, avoid heat, inflammation and excitement and look out for eruptive troubles and fires; those of the gentle sex so born should council their male relations to be specially guarded as to health and pecuniary transactions and they themselves should not permit serious difficulties or quarrels to interfere with their best welfare in life. Being a holiday, to some extent, and likely to be much given to social communion and entertainment, there is danger under the heightened inflammatory influences of the day, *this year*, that extraordinary harm and physical disorders will result to very many who give way to any intemperate impulses. Stimulants will be peculiarly mischievous in arousing strife, contention and violence. REGULUS advises prudence, patience, and great moderation in all the affairs of life.

2—Tuesday. This is a superior day and specially fortunate for every honorable pursuits; buy goods for trade, speculate in legitimate methods of business, travel and apply for favor or money accommodations; waste no moments in idleness.

3—Wednesday. Continue thine efforts of yesterday with the utmost vigor; giving preference, if any, to business pertaining to the elegant and decorative in life; consult thy dressmaker, tailor, jeweler and artist and do all things that require the exercise of taste; patented articles of an artistic or decorative character are likely to prove profitable if they offer themselves at this time; the afternoon is less to be depended upon, except for literary work and mental labor.

4—Thursday. Be stirring early and employ every moment of the day until three in the afternoon. Use the forenoon for the pursuit of all general business, but particularly for dealings with printers, publishers, stationers and real estate traders, also for the purchase and sale of such commodities as coal, iron, petroleum, wood, lumber, lead, wool and grain; also for engagements for the improvement of lands; but as the afternoon advances put on the breaks, avoiding all haste and pull the purse strings securely to prevent needless extravagance and loss.

5—Friday. Give a wide berth to all public officers with whom thou shouldst not seek to conduct important business; large corporations will not favor thee in the forenoon; the afternoon and evening, however, are superior for dealings with dentists, chemists, surgeons, builders, masons and all mechanics and workers in brass, iron and glass.

6—Saturday. The week ends with an especially unfavorable day until the evening and more than ordinary circumspection should be exercised in all thine undertakings of much magnitude; indeed a little procrastination at this time will be likely to prove rather more salutary than otherwise. Do not have any important transaction with the pen, for the time is very evil for all kinds of contracts especially pertaining to houses and lands or mining properties. Those of the intellectual and literary classes born about the 19th of March, 21st of June, 22nd of September, or 20th of December of past years, are now in the midst of adverse conditions and have unusual troubles in their affairs or are suffering more than usual nervous or mental troubles or anxieties from their written contracts or their correspondence, or from slanderous tongues and fraudulent representations; the evening of this day is by far the best and should be given preference as much as possible for all the important engagements.

7—Sunday. A very favorable Sabbath day, especially for church matters; the evening is particularly propitious for social conversations and the contemplation of the beautiful in literature and art.

8—Monday. Be in no haste to begin the day's labors; be slow to anger; keep out of controversy and be prudent under all kinds of excitement in the morning hours. As the day advances, however, bend all thine energies to business; push thy bargains in houses, lands, mines and all agricultural and mining products; make contracts and urge literary matters and correspondence to the utmost; printers, publishers, press-writers, mathematicians, scientists and all employed with the pen should use the latter part of the day for their most vigorous efforts.

9—Tuesday. An excellent day for the fine arts and for all kinds of business concerned with articles of adornment and dress; the late hours are less to be depended upon.

10—Wednesday. The very early hours forbid advantage from any venture pertaining to the elegant in life, when no dress goods should be selected or any artistic wares purchased; but after nine in the forenoon conditions favor the greatest activity in all business pursuits; especially such as are concerned with hardware, machinery, tools, chemicals, or with the mechanical and manufacturing interests; deal in cattle, metals, drugs, fire-arms and glass-ware, and with persons who are engaged in such callings.

11—Thursday. An evil day in which, particularly, matters of much importance are best deferred; quarrels, bad accidents and strife are easy of occurrence under these influences and more than usual prudence and moderation is urged; money losses come unless great care is had; beware of having any surgical operation performed on this day, if it can possibly be avoided.

12—Friday. Let all engaged in the elegant occupations and polite arts improve the whole of this day; artists and musicians are particularly favored in the afternoon when dexterity in execution will be marked; the evening gives pleasure from the drama or musical entertainment.

13—Saturday. The conditions do not promise success in new and important enterprises now begun, and caution care in all things; do not let disappointment depress thee nor be stubborn or rebellious to thine own injury.

14—Sunday. A day of intellectual acuteness though tendencies to sarcasm and bitterness of speech are incited; strange whims and notions become pronounced and the temper will need healthful check.

15—Monday. Give no offence to thy superior or employer nor seek advantage from persons in authority; the day is peculiarly unpromising and forbids profit or advantage from anything now begun. Persons born about the 14th of April 17th of July, 18th of October, or 15th of January, of past years, are likely to be now in the midst of contention or strife and should be careful not to precipitate trouble of considerable magnitude by their own rashness or pugnacity; children so born should have the best of care as these days are passing, especially if there is any prevalence of eruptive diseases, for measles scarlet-fever, diphtheria, etc., are likely to be more than usually dangerous. Married ladies so born are cautioned against permitting domestic inharmonies to make serious ruptures in the marital relations. The male relatives of such ladies are the cause of mental troubles and anxieties; let all be temperate in habit and in diet, considerate of the rights of others, and cautious not to become involved in disputes; be watchful against fires and explosions and see that no harm comes from horses, dogs, or machinery.

16—Tuesday. The very early hours are not promising, being rather promotive of contention; be not oversensitive to reproach or rash in word or act, but as the day is ell entered upon let every moment be improved for forwarding all important matters, especially such as concern the fine arts and all money transactions; purchase artistic wares, wearing apparel, dry and fancy goods and all those things which furnish pleasure and gratification to mankind.

17—Wednesday. Have no real estate transaction in the morning when matters are hindered much; the day is better as it advances and all things should be urged vigorously.

18—Thursday. Do not wed on this day nor expect success in the elegant pursuits or in dealings in fancy or ornamental goods. The day is dangerous to the purse, in that impulses come to make purchases that are wholly unnecessary or beyond the means, or that will not give permanent satisfaction; beware of speculation; the forenoon encourages transactions with real estate men and in such commodities as coal, wood, lumber, grain, and other agricultural products.

19—Friday. The morning promises but little if any favor from dealings with officers of large corporations and contributes disquiet in the domestic circle; the afternoon and evening, however, conduce to success in all literary undertakings; push correspondence and apply the mind vigorously towards forwarding all thine affairs.

20—Saturday. The forenoon is indifferent in promises but as the noon is past let all energies be put forth; deal with surgeons, druggists, chemists, cutlers, machinists and all workers with fire and metals; the midnight hours are evil and mental depression frequently attended with disagreeable dreams will be noted.

21—Sunday. The best Sabbath day in the month; the efforts of the clergy will be especially happy and effective and minds will dwell with earnestness and zeal on the contemplation of religious subjects; church matters are prosperous.

22—Monday. Begin this day early but give preference to transactions concerning the elegant things in life; the pursuits of the fine arts is encouraged until three in the afternoon; after which conditions conspire to embarrass such matters and literary engagements do not result satisfactorily; postpone correspondence, especially such as concerns money and the affairs of the wealthy; see that no mistakes are made in figures or accounts in the afternoon hours.

23—Tuesday. The forenoon should be used for hiring or purchasing houses or lands and dealing with miners, tinners, plumbers, brick and stone masons and all engaged in the laborious or dirty avocations; put on the cautious cap in the afternoon when quarrels and disputes are easily provoked; seek no favor from thine employer nor have any surgical operation performed during the day; the evening promises pleasure from dramatic or musical entertainment or the social gathering.

24—Wednesday. Apply to persons in authority for favor or advantage during the middle hours of this day; be careful here that thine inclination to disburse money is prompted by thine actual needs and not a mere whim or fancy, as the passing days give tendency towards extravagance or wastefulness of this world's goods to obtain mere gratifications.

25—Thursday. Begin this day with the Sun and improve every moment; the merchant, tradesman, commercial traveler, and all engaged in literary pursuits or having employment concerning books or newspapers are particularly favored; authors will find their efforts on this day bringing forth good fruit; buy goods for trade, travel, and urge all honorable undertakings; execute contracts and do important correspondence.

26—Friday. Seize the early forenoon hours for pressing all engagements, especially if such concern thy money matters or depend for success upon the favor of thy superior in business; do not look for success in the fine arts nor expect any advantage from thy dealings with officers of state or of great corporations.

27—Saturday. Keep out of disputes on this day; do not institute legal proceedings nor expect any favor from thine employer.

28—Sunday. The morning hours are all mischievous and prompt rest and quiet and tardy rising, but as the forenoon opens conditions change for the better and pulpit utterances are likely to be noted for readiness of eloquent utterance; the evening is peculiarly propitious for enjoyment of all things beautiful and artistic and for quickening the tender sentiments.

29—Monday. Look out on this day that no loss comes from any speculative deal and do not let haste of decision or impatience of suggestion or control lead thee to action detrimental to thy best interests; keep a check upon all impulses.

30—Tuesday. Urge all matters of an honorable nature during the first two-thirds of this day, due regard being had for a too hasty inclination in the afternoon, when all strife is to be guarded against especially if born about the 29th of January, April, July, or October of past years. All these latter persons are easily drawn into controversy at this time unless they are carefully on their guard. Such persons who are subject to disturbances in the circulation of the blood should avoid excitement in these days and do nothing to aggravate any heart disorder they may have seen symptoms of in that line.

31—Wednesday. The month ends with a fairly favorable day, conducive to a good degree of success in all honorable undertakings.

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I have discovered a positive cure for all female diseases and the piles. It never fails to cure any of the various diseases peculiar to women, such as leucorrhœa, displacements, ulceration, granulation, etc., or the piles from any cause or in either sex. I will gladly mail a box of this wonderful medicine free to every sufferer. Mrs. C. B. MILLER, Box 106, Kokomo, Ind.

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GREAT PREMIUM OFFER.—If you will get up a club of 6 yearly trial subscribers to this paper at the special price of 26 cents each, we will send you one of these repairing outfits as a present to you.

COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

THE WAR IN SOUTH AFRICA.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



THE war in the Transvaal has become so important that it now occupies the largest part of the columns of the daily newspapers, which are full of telegraphic accounts of the fighting between the troops of Great Britain and the armies of the Dutch republic. Although there has been very much printed about these questions, they have not occupied the attention of American readers very much until recently, and a great many people even now have but vague ideas of the situation or what the trouble is about.

The South African republic, commonly known as the Transvaal and the Orange Free State, are two Dutch republics in the interior of the south part of Africa, neither of them having any sea coast or water communication excepting the rivers which flow from the interior into the South Indian Ocean, and cross foreign territory after leaving the Transvaal before entering the ocean.

The Orange Free State is a little country of about the same size territory as occupied by our state of Kentucky, nestling along the western part of the southern boundary of the South African republic. The Transvaal is about three times as large in territory, being approximately the same size as New Mexico. It is cut off from the ocean on its upper eastern border by the Portuguese colony of East Africa, which is as big as Texas and Louisana combined, and below that by Tonga Land, a little country about equal to New Hampshire in size, then by Zulu Land, which is a British protectorate about as large as Maryland.

The Orange Free State is cut off from the ocean on the south by Basuto Land and the great extent of country known as Cape of Good Hope, the southern part of which is the region called Cape Colony, and is entirely British. The whole of the Cape of Good Hope is a little larger than Texas; and Basuto Land, which is in the middle of the south-east border of the Orange Free State, is about as large as Vermont.

Along the north-west border of the Orange Free State lies Griqua Land west, which is part of the extensive country generally known as Bechuana Land. This is all a British colony and borders the whole of the South African republic on the west and north, and is generally known and is on the maps as British South Africa.



PRESIDENT KRUGER.

The Dutch settlements in South Africa have existed nearly 250 years, the first being at Cape of Good Hope where the Hollanders located in 1652. After the revocation of the Edict of Nantes by Louis XIV., there was an exodus of the Huguenots from France, and a large body of them sailed to the Cape of Good Hope and founded a colony there. They did not get on well with the Dutch, and in 1709 the use of the French language was forbidden, which was followed in 1724 by a decree closing French missions and churches and forbidding their religious exercises. This caused an exodus of Huguenots to a large extent, those remaining being absorbed and assimilated by the Dutch. This will account for the many French names which our readers will notice in the accounts of this war among the Boer commanders. In this connection it is well to notice that General Joubert, who is in command of the Boers, is of Huguenot extraction, and that DeBeer and OuTroitspan, upon whose farms the diamonds were originally found, were also from the Huguenot families.

The influx of foreigners, especially of British, caused great uneasiness in Cape Colony the beginning of this century. The Dutch settled there were entirely of the agricultural class and disliked any changes. They lived in a simple, primitive way and preserved all the characteristics of the Hollanders of two centuries ago. They were strongly opposed to innovations of any kind and disliked changes of their methods. This brought them into constant friction with the new settlers at the Cape, and in 1833 the relations had become so strained that there was a general exodus of the Boers from Cape Colony across the Vaal River, hence the name Transvaal first came into use. The exodus was accomplished by *treking*, each farmer taking his household goods and family in large tilt wagons, and driving them with long strings of oxen, their cattle and stock following. They went into this wild new country to establish a government of their own kind. Their contact with the fierce wild men of South Africa, with all kinds of game including lions and elephants, and their agricultural mode of life kept them in the saddle all day, so that they became the most expert horsemen and marksmen in the world. For a few years there was a constant war with the Zulus, but the Trekers or Boers finally drove them out of the country. About ten years from this time, the British occupied Natal, and induced the Boers remaining there to emigrate, which they did in two great streams, one headed toward the Orange Free State and the other toward the Transvaal. Quarrels between their leaders prevented the establishment of any settled form of government, and Great Britain taking advantage of this dispersed the Boer government in Natalia. The annexation in 1848 of Boer land between the Vaal and Orange Rivers by Great Britain caused a rebellion of the Dutch, but they were quickly driven across the Vaal River. There was a desultory war for four or five years, when a convention was signed at the request of Pretorius, the Boer leader, which established the Boer independence in the Transvaal, and the following year his son was proclaimed the first president of the Dutch-African republic and a partial occupation of the Orange Free State. In the year 1867 both diamonds and gold were discovered in the interior, and immediately after Pretorius issued a proclamation enlarging the boundaries of the republic so as to take in Delagoa Bay on the north. This was the beginning of a series of disputes between the republic and Portugal and Great Britain. It was not until 1875 that Delagoa Bay and the coast was given to Portugal under French arbitration. In the mean time there were constant insurrections and armed resistances until 1877, when Great Britain annexed the country.

At this point "Oom Paul" Kruger (Uncle Paul Kruger) and Gen. Joubert first appear on the scene as ambassadors sent to England to protest. The Boers were unanimously against annexation, but were in no condition to resist on account of financial depression; while the excuse of Great Britain at that time was that it was necessary to hold the Transvaal on account of the decision relative to Delagoa Bay, and the Transvaal must be held for the protection of the other British colonies.



COMMANDANT JOUBERT.

For the following three years matters grew worse and worse, and in 1880 the Boer war for independence broke out. The British lost every important engagement there, and their misfortunes culminated at Majuba Mountain where they were disastrously defeated by the superior bravery and generalship of the Boers. A treaty of peace was signed in 1881, by which the Republic was placed under the suzerainty of Queen Victoria, and two years after Oom Paul was elected president under the new conditions.

Things went quietly until 1886, when great discoveries of gold were made in the Transvaal, more particularly in the middle province. English, Americans, and other foreigners flocked there in tens of thousands and engaged in mining everywhere. This enormous influx of people soon placed the relative proportion of about three to one. The new comers, known as Uitlanders, were the possessors of the great wealth of the country as well as a great majority, and rapidly developed it in modern lines, at the same time being unable to vote although heavily taxed and having no share in the government.

A great deal has been written about the ethical side of the case, but it is against all ideas of modern justice that the intelligent and wealthy of a population should be taxed and have no share in the government; and this situation was made doubly strong from the fact that the Boers have resisted progress and advancement in every way, desiring only their primitive life and looking on all changes as innovations that were breaking up their homes. The situation became more strained every day, and finally a raid, which will be remembered, was planned by Dr. Jamieson with some 300 followers with an intention of making an uprising of the Uitlanders in the Transvaal. He was captured at Krugersdorp and afterwards taken to London and tried; he was convicted but only nominally sentenced. Since then there has been a very great deal of diplomatic correspondence between the two countries, Great Britain demanding for the Uitlanders franchise and certain privileges, which were opposed by the Dutch who look on the foreigners as having no real standing in the country. It finally culminated in a declaration of war by President Kruger October 11th of this year.

It is not the intention of COMFORT to give a detailed account of the present war which is daily recounted by the newspaper press; but in this article the purpose is to point out a few of the salient features and so explain them that our readers may read the current news with better intelligence and so more accurately understand the statements that are made.

From what has been written above it can be seen that in one sense the whole war is one for gold; and yet the course of Great Britain is by no means simply a contest for loot, but she is fighting a great battle for civil rights while the Boers are struggling for Dutch supremacy. But, still, there never would have been any war if gold had not been discovered in the Witwatersrand about fifteen years ago.

The Transvaal then was nothing but a rolling land of meadow and mountain, good only for farming and ranching. The Dutch settlers had won it, and as it seemed scarcely worth fighting for, the English let them keep it. It was so little in communication that it took a journey of 40 days by ox cart to reach its boundaries from Cape Town. In 1884 a man named Arnold told a farmer named Geldenhuis that there was gold on his farm. The Dutchman did not believe it, but repeated the story and finally sold the farm to two brothers named Struben, who put up a mill and began to work the grayish earth that has since proven the richest gold ore the earth has ever shown. The Boer Government declared nine farms public gold fields.

Then the rush began. The Boers failed to act quickly and the claims were largely taken up by foreigners. The value of these farms at the time was less than $50,000 while now it is estimated their value is not less than $1,500,000,000. Nearly the entire diggings are in English hands. Everywhere are found rich deposits and the dividends have been enormous in their aggregate.

The diamond industry at Kimberley is managed by an American named Williams. The consolidation of companies effected by Cecil Rhodes represents $900,000,000 in capital. It is curious in this connection to relate the experience of Williams in the Transvaal. When gold was first discovered there were grave doubts about its value. The Rothschilds determined to send an American expert to examine. Williams was a famous gold authority and was selected. He went to the Transvaal and visited the beautiful grazing lands where gold was reported. It was all different from American gold lands. He entered a few shafts of the "reefs" of that marvelous deposit, unlike any other in the world, and examined the queer, black, powdery soil and was thoroughly disgusted.



GEN. W. PENN SYMONS.

In the whole history of the world gold had never been found in such conditions, and he reported the whole story as a fraud and fake; even going so far as to say the whole business was not worth the trouble of alighting from one's horse for examination. So turning his back on this individual plain that now turns out $40,000,000 in gold annually he went to Kimberley and made his strike in another direction.

Our initial cut at the head of this article shows a new engine of war which appeared for the first time in this conflict, and about which frequent allusions have appeared in papers—the armored train. Gen. Kitchener first used them in a crude form on his expedition up the Nile, while we made use of them in the Cuban campaign. These improved cars are lined or cased in steel or iron, being about the build and size of a long coal car. From four points protrude the muzzles of light rapid-fire cannon, and on every side are perforated holes through which to fire rifles. There is also a row close to the front for low volleys. The engine is protected with plates and sandbags and the train has proven a very effective fighting arm, especially for quick relief on railroad lines.



GEN. SIR REDVERS BULLER.

Among the earlier losses Great Britain met with was that of Gen. William Penn Symons, the British commander at Glencoe, shot in the stomach at Dundee. He was a brave man who had served Great Britain in many parts of the world with signal success. His death is particularly notable as being that of the first general officer Britain has had killed or mortally wounded in action for many years.

While some people hope that the war will soon close, there seems to be little prospect of it. The Boers are strong, sturdy fighters, persevering and dogged. They are familiar with firearms and are in their own country, which presents every known obstacle to a quick campaign. The British have unlimited supplies and men and the expedition under the general command of Sir Redvers Buller will have nearly 100,000 armed men under his orders. They will undoubtedly outnumber the Boers two to one, but the latter is fighting defensively and is at advantage. The English must depend on three lines of railroads and have to move long distances, so that an early end of the struggle either by conquest or desire for peace seems improbable. The fighting so far has been about equal in favorable results. Both sides are acting on well-considered plans which show rare combinations of science and military genius. It hardly seems possible that a successful resistance can long be maintained by a small republic against the wealth and strength of England; but there is no doubt that the Dutch will be able to hold their enemies at bay for a long period, no matter what may be the final outcome.

As was above stated, it is not the intention of this article to give a history of the war itself, but the earlier contests have been rather favorable to the Boers who on both sides of the Transvaal have steadily pushed the British back. The campaign has at times showed great disasters to both sides and dogged perseverance in the troops of both armies. It appears the British War Office was not prepared for so aggressive a campaign on the part of the Boers. People who have an exaggerated idea of the horrors of the Spanish War and campaign in Cuba, can realize how little those battles meant as compared with the terrible warfare now going on in South Africa when it is told that the losses to the British army in the first twenty days of the war aggregated more than the entire losses of the American army and navy combined during the entire Spanish War, while the casualties of the Boers are supposed to have been equal if not larger; and yet, bloody as these battles are, they do not compare in proportion killed and wounded to many of the battles of the American Civil War, which have never been equaled in fierceness and disaster by any battle in history.

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A. M. Barnes, Fifth Prize.

A REMARKABLE EXPERIENCE.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY BOURDON WILSON.

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LET any man follow railroading as long as Tom Walters has and he, too, will have strange experiences to tell about. Tom is a truthful fellow and I am going to tell this story just as he told it to me. He was a messenger in the employ of the Wells & Fargo Express Company, and had been running out of San Francisco for a number of years when he received a note one morning, requesting him to call on the Superintendent at his office. Wondering what was wanted, he went to the office and was promptly admitted to the presence of his superior.

"Ah, Walters!" exclaimed the Superintendent, spinning his chair around and omitting the formality of a salutation, "you are just the man I was expecting. I wanted to see you to tell you that I have decided to transfer you to the A. & P. There is something radically wrong down there, just what and where I am unable to say; but for the past month packages of money have been disappearing from the cars from right under the messengers' noses, if they tell the truth, and we have not been able to trace the thefts to any one. It's all very mysterious and I have concluded to end it by making a clean sweep of the men there, putting in men of known integrity and nerve. You must start to-day and I wish I could tell you just what in particular to guard against, but I cannot; so all I will say is, permit no one to enter your car and remember that 'eternal vigilance is the price of success'."

An order issued by Wells & Fargo's officials is as unalterable as were the laws of the Medes and Persians, therefore Tom's preference as to going or staying where he was would have cut no figure whatever, so he did not express it. Having obtained all the information the Superintendent could give him he said good-by and started that night for The Needles, the western end of his new run.

From The Needles the A. & P. railroad stretches eastward eight hundred miles across Arizona to Albuquerque in New Mexico, traversing a barren region that is criss-crossed by mountain ranges, canyons and lava beds; uninhabited now for the greater part, but once the home of that mysterious, vanished people, the cave dwellers. Just the country one would expect to find filled with train robbers and outlaws of every other description.

Tom arrived at The Needles in due time and at once took out a run. It had never been demonstrated that he had a nervous system but when he reached Albuquerque he was, to draw it mildly, a little shaky. Determined that nothing should be stolen from him he had remained awake throughout the twenty-four hours consumed by the run, and that in connection with the strain entailed by watching for something, he knew not what, had told on his nerves. However, his freight and money checked out right and a night's sound sleep steadied him again. His return trip to The Needles was without incident and nothing going wrong during his next run to Albuquerque and return, he began to think that the loss of the packages was to be attributed to dishonesty on the part of some of the discharged men. So what was his astonishment upon arriving at Albuquerque on his next run, to discover that a package containing a small sum of money was missing.

In no way could he account for the loss. He had slept during a part of the preceding night, as he had full right to do, he remembered, but the doors of his car were locked and barred and he was sure no one had entered. Why did the thief take a package containing so small a sum when there were others with large amounts, he wondered. And why did he take just one when there were several? Cudgel his brain as he would he could evolve no plausible theory. He made the usual report for missing articles and then wrote the Superintendent a letter, detailing most minutely his every action during the trip.

Feeling that the loss of the package reflected upon his watchfulness and zeal, if not his honesty, Tom determined to sleep no more while on the road. He made the return trip to The Needles without accident, but when he again arrived in Albuquerque it was to find that another package had been stolen. He could hardly believe the evidence of his senses. He had remained awake throughout the run, and was positive that no one had entered his car. Bewildered and greatly mortified, he telegraphed the account of this loss to the Superintendent. In a short while he received in reply a telegram that seemed to point to a solution of the mystery. It was brief and read:

"Don't lose your grip. Examine boxes and other freight large enough to hold a man."

Why had not he thought of that before? he asked himself, feeling that he deserved a kicking for his stupidity. Opening his freight book he ran his finger down the list of articles he had handled on the trip and stopped at the entry of a box weighing two hundred pounds which he had taken on at a station called Flagstaff. The box was consigned to the Smithsonian Institute, he noticed, but without a thought as to what that Institute might be. Turning to a list of the run preceding he was scarcely surprised to find that it also contained the entry of a heavy box, shipped from Flagstaff. It was all easy enough to understand now, he thought; he was being systematically victimized by a band of thieves, one of whom would be put in a box and shipped by his confederates; and he, watching his opportunity, would steal out on his thievish errand, then return to his box. It was no new trick and Tom berated himself soundly for not having seen through it sooner.

Promising himself to catch the thief and land him in the penitentiary if he tried the game again, he closed his book; and when he returned to The Needles, he was the most wide awake man on the road. When it came his turn to take again the run to Albuquerque, he felt no anxiety until his train drew up at Flagstaff, and then his eyes were instantly riveted upon a large box that was being brought to his car. He saw at a glance that it bore the Wells & Fargo label, and that it was addressed to the Smithsonian Institute.

"What's in that box?" he asked the man who had it in charge.

"Give it up," the other replied. "There's a queer lot o' fellers claimin' to be professors o' some kind diggin' 'round in the old Indian caves back here in the mountains, and whatever it is they're findin' they've been shippin' back East. They say it's Indian bones and such truck, but I don't swallow that—too many bones back East for 'em to practice on, and fresh ones at that. Goin' by what *they* said, this box is full o' mummys, dried Indians, you know."

Tom asked nothing farther; he had no doubt as to there being a man in the box, a living man, and he did not want him to suspect that his presence there was known. Calling the other man into the car, with his assistance, he lifted the box to the top of a pile of freight where the thief would find it difficult to get out without making a noise. "Mummy!" he thought, smiling grimly. "I'll make a genuine mummy of him if he doesn't surrender when he comes out of that box."

When the train started he drew his chair into a dark corner of the car where he could not be seen from the box, and with his shot gun across his knees, sat watching as intently as ever a cat watched for a mouse. Every noise however faint smote harshly on his excited nerves, and more than once he raised his gun only to find no cause for alarm. Slowly the hours dragged by; midnight came, then two o'clock, and beginning to think that the thief did not mean to come out, Tom lowered his gaze from the box to the floor. How long he sat thus he could only conjecture, for minutes seemed hours; finally a faint, grating noise attracted his attention, and raising his eyes he was startled to see the top of the box slowly rising. Higher and higher it went until the box stood wide open, and a dim figure within it began moving about. Now a face appeared above the edge, a shrunken face upon which the yellow skin was shriveled and drawn, hideously distorting the features almost beyond resemblance to anything human—the face of a mummy.

Fascinated by the horrid sight, Tom sat still, gazing with protruding eyes. The repulsive thing slowly crawled out of the box, and down to the floor; then another followed that one, and another and another until half a dozen or more stood in the car, their sightless eyes turned upon Tom. Now they started toward him, and terrified, he tried to raise his gun, but his muscles refused to act; nearer and nearer they crept, their dry skins crackling and rattling as they moved. They panted, then as one, sprang upon him. A piercing shriek burst his lips, and leaping to his feet, he—awoke. Awoke to find his car turning over and over down an embankment, and parcels of every description, the splintered box, and a select assortment of Indian mummys filling the air and falling over him.

Tom escaped without bodily injury, but to this day he has not been able to decide from which his nerves received the greatest strain; the wrecking of the car, his dream, or his discovery in a wall of the shattered car of a rat's nest composed of bits of paper, mainly banknotes. He is a Superintendent himself now, and he attributes his promotion largely to his having found that nest.

THE UNFINISHED HOUSE.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY MARY R. P. HATCH.

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I WAS taking a bicycle trip through a portion of the Connecticut river valley when, attracted by a pretty wood-skirted path, I branched off from the main road and into a narrow lane, following it until it ended in a pasture which was girdled by a stone wall and a set of four rudely hewn bars. Chagrined at this prosaic ending of my sylvan ride, I dismounted and was about to return the why I came, when, at a little distance, in what must have once been a cultivated field, I saw the ruins of a somewhat pretentious mansion. Surprised at its appearance here, far from the abodes of men and indeed shut off from the highway by pasture and woodland, I decided to go farther with a view to investigation.

To my surprise I found it to be a building which had been allowed to go to ruin before its completion. Half a century, at least, must have left its moss, ruin and rot to work its evil will on walls and casements, on floors and doorways. The ell had never been built, for a cellar, out of which grew poplar trees twenty feet high, yawned at the side of the square, finely modelled main part. Groups of maples and poplars of great size guarded the entrance and indeed, I was insensibly reminded of the enchanted palace where the sleeping Beauty lay waiting the coming of the Prince to awaken and marry her.

Smiling at my fancy, I decided to effect an entrance and ascertain whether the interior justified the romantic surrounding. I pushed on the door but the hinges were rusty and the old-fashioned latch would not lift. Setting my knee determinedly against the door, I gave a sudden lurch and it opened with so much force as to throw me heavily to the floor where I lay gasping with fear and horror. What was the cause I did not at the moment seek to realize. I was not hurt by my fall but from the moment the atmosphere of the ruined dwelling met me, I was overpowered with a subtle sense of distress and terror. There was something which I had never realized before, and, trembling and shaking in every limb, I arose to my feet and looked vaguely about me.

I appeared to have entered the long, low living room, or hall, which is a feature of the old-time dwellings of the better sort. An immense fireplace held sway at one side. On two sides there were the windowless apertures, only one of which was framed; on the fourth side were doorways to other portions of the house. Bare, bleak and uninviting as was the aspect of the room there was yet no sense of loneliness. On the contrary it seemed to be crowded with unseen forces surcharged with emotion of the most intense and harrowing kind. It was something like the spell that falls upon a large gathering of people when the stirring report of a battle is read. The hearts of the hearers beat as one, a picture of the battlefield with its smoke and grime and death-cries and rattle of musketry and yells of the fiercely charging shot is before each, and a pall as of black distress settles down for the moment over the vast crowd, until, with a sense of suffocation, a rush is made for the door.

So did I feel suffocated in this bare, bleak room; so did waves of horror, sympathy and distress beat upon my heart, compelling me to a realization of *some* incident of woe which I had not witnessed but which the unseen participants blazed into my very being. What it was I could not tell, but of one thing I was convinced. It was this: that, curious as the statement may seem to the reader, a direful tragedy had occurred some time in this house, probably in this very room. It was with difficulty that I at last succeeded in shaking off the spell which had seized me. I had my photographer's outfit with me. It was late in the afternoon, the sun was nearly down. I decided to have a picture of this weird, uncanny apartment, for my collection, and ride over from the hotel in the morning to take a photograph of the exterior. It would need a long exposure but this would insure a fine picture. I arranged the focus and carefully slipped in a plate just as the sun went down. It was so placed that a view of the fireplace and open doorway at the end would be produced.

As I worked, the feeling of horror let go its clutch on me somewhat and when ready to depart, I was quite restored to my usual equanimity but still that sense of not being alone was with me.

Closing the door carefully after me at length, I mounted my wheel and rode away, leaving inside the camera pointing dully yet mysteriously at the old fireplace as if its modern, up-to-date character were already changing into something in keeping with the room.

I did not speak of my adventure to any one at the hotel, though the landlord was a garrulous fellow who would, no doubt, have been glad to tell me all he knew about the old place; but I had no time that night for gossip as my weekly article for the Sunday Globe was overdue and must be written. Accordingly I wrote in my room until bedtime.

The next morning I rode over to the ruins and entered without experiencing the feelings of the previous visit in all their intensity. Still there was yet wafted to my senses on the moment of my entrance, that mysterious sense of occupancy, of another presence in the bare, grim, apartment.

Packing up my camera, after extracting the plates, I then took another look at the house, visiting the cellar, even, and the remote chambers. A thin flooring was laid and in the room directly over the living room, I observed in time to escape a severe fall, a broken board. Moved by curiosity I touched it lightly with my heel and found that sufficient pressure would precipitate one to the room below. I have said that I touched it with my heel. This you will readily believe, but not my next statement which I offer tentatively, so to speak, for I could at the time scarcely believe the evidence of my own senses, and at this remoteness of time, almost doubt its reality. But I heard it, yes, I am sure that I heard it, whatever may have been the possible disturbed state

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of my feelings at the time. I heard a deep, prolonged wail of agony ring out in that silent house which seemed to penetrate every part of the room. I felt my hair lift with horror. I stepped back affrighted, as if pushed to place by some invisible hand, and, giving one glance backward at the jagged broken board, I went down the unsteady and creaking stairs with more precipitation than was consonant with entire safety. All roads led to the living room. I turned my steps toward it and as if led by some unseen guidance went directly to the point which lay under the broken board, and which now for the first time I noticed in its relation to this room.

And then I glanced downward to the floor and again I saw something which had hitherto escaped my attention. It was a dark, deep stain on the floor, and the stain *looked like blood*.

At the sight there was that same curdling of the blood, the same lifting of the hair and again, or did I fancy it, the same wail of anguish which I had heard in the upper room.

I did not stop for further investigation. I had supped my fill of horrors. I rushed to the door, and taking my camera, mounted my wheel and rode away as if legions of demons were in pursuit. Strange ending of a bright morning in prosaic New England.

Before I reached the hotel I began to grow skeptical and to believe there were natural causes for the mysterious sights and sounds of the old house. A loosened casement swaying in the wind, a smear of paint on the floor might explain these, and my own susceptibility to supernatural fears to the hot biscuits, mince pies and doughnuts which largely made up the bill of fare at the hotel. So I was already returned to my usual equanimity and went immediately to my room to develop several plates, which I had on hand. These were soon dispatched and then came the last one taken. One glance at it and I looked about me dazed and uncertain. Was this the picture, the one with the old white haired, scholarly-looking man peering from the doorway at some object on the floor? It looked like a heap of drapery with something round and white at one end. Hastily drawing my microscope from my pocket I laid it over the spot and there lay exposed the white, still face of a woman. She was young, yes, and beautiful, and she lay there as if quite dead.

What tragedy was this and when had it taken place? Was it last night when my camera lay in wait to treasure up the secrets of that horrible room? Who could tell? Certainly not I.

Then, impelled by an eager fascination to see all my camera had revealed, I studied the old man's face. It was diabolical under the microscope and the patriarchal hair and beard but intensified the baleful look of the glaring eyes turned toward the prostrate figure, while the outstretched hands, with clawlike fingers, and bent form, lent to it a demoniac aspect. That the picture was a true representation I could not doubt. The plate had not been previously exposed and there was but one way to account for the picture. It was, it must be, a representation of what had actually taken place in that room. I decided to make inquiries regarding the ruined house in hopes to hear something which might throw light on the subject.

The first person I encountered on going down stairs was an old man who "done chores for his board" as the landlady had already informed me. Casually remarking that I had visited the old house in the fields his face lighted up with interest.

"I wanter know," he said. "Wall, times has changed some sence Dr. Talbot set out to build that ere house."

"Why was it never finished?" I asked.

"Wall, that's somethin' that don't nobuddy reelly know. Some says his money gin out and some says his niece bein' killed there sorter gin 'im a shock he couldn't git over in a hurry."

"Niece killed?" I repeated, galvanized to the most intense interest.

"Yes; you see she was turrible rich an' he was to have her money 'cordin' to the will dockyments, if she died unmarried or before she was twenty-one. Dr. Talbot was rich himself, had hundreds of acres of wild land but folks said his fingers got to itchin' after his niece's money. There was talk all along an' when she was killed there in the house after she'd rode over with the doctor to see it, naturally there was a lot more talk. The doctor was took up an' examined, but Lor'! they couldn't find nothin' agin him! Most like it was as he said. She stepped on a board that was cracked clear across it and fell through. There was them that said the fall never killed her and there was a turrible big bruise on her head as if she'd ben struck. But then again the doctor said she struck on her head when she fell. Wall, nobuddy knows to this day but anyway, Dr. Talbot, he never finished the house and he died the very year follering."

"Did the doctor have a family?"

"Yes, he did; six childun, four boys an' two girls, and that, to my mind's the strangest part on't."

"I don't understand," I at length replied, for the old man had picked up a straw from a crack and was slowly chewing it, evidently lost to all but his own reflections.

"Hey? What say?" he asked, as I repeated my questien.

"Wall, about them childun, the doctor was rich when he died but his widder and them childun run through the whole property in less than two year. Fack! Mis' Talbot died at the county farm. Ducia is there now (room's all fixed up first rate with canaries and fancy work, they say. The overseer is real good to her. I'm thinkin' of goin' there pretty soon). An' Adelaide (she's dreadful han'som') turned out bad an' has gone, nobuddy knows where. Bill, he's in the Soldier's Home, Confeld is on the town down to Morway. Put (his hull name is Putnam) is a mean scalliwag of a tramp, comes round onct in a while. He won't work and he ain't above baigin'. Mis' Dean here to the tarvern han's him out cold victuals, I've seen her. Wall, I guess Mis' Dean is gettin' pretty riled by this time about her firewood," and the old man trudged off with bowed back and his arm full of wood.

I shall add no comments to the story as told by the camera and the old man. If there is a supernatural element, why then the matter is cleared up. If not, I see no explanation. In either case, it overflows with mystery.

CHILD WIVES.

THE PATHETIC PICTURE DICKENS DREW.

Of all the characters evolved from the master mind of Charles Dickens, there is perhaps none which can rival in its pathetic interest, that of Dora, the "Little Blossom." She found the wedding ring grow too heavy for her little hand, and in spite of the lavishness of a husband's love, she faded away just like some sweet blossom nipped by untimely frost.

The pathos of the child-wife's history reaches its climax in that last interview with her husband. David sits on the bed side, and thus the story is told:

"She looks into my eyes and speaks very softly, 'I am afraid dear I was too young. I don't mean by years only, but in experience and thoughts and everything. I was such a silly little creature. I have begun to think *I was not fit to be a wife*.'

"I try to stay my tears and to reply, 'Oh, Dora, love, as fit as I to be a husband.'"

"I don't know," with the old shake of the



curls, "Perhaps! But if *I had been more fit to be married* I might have made you more so too. I was very happy, very, but as the years went on my dear boy would have wearied of his child-wife. She would have been less and less a companion to him. I know I was too young and foolish. It is much better as it is."

Poor little Dora! The sweet little blossom faded and fell. But how many women wake up to a realization of the burden of marriage, crying with Dora, "I was not fit to be a wife," and live on through years of misery and suffering.

UNFITNESS FOR MARRIAGE

is the cause of much of the unhappiness which is so frequently ventilated in the divorce courts. The young woman, knowing nothing of physical disabilities enters into the marriage obligation to wake from her dream of love and happiness, to a realization of possibilities of suffering hitherto unknown.

"About ten years ago I was married and three months later I became miserable, but I did not know what was the matter with me," writes Mrs. John Hemmis, of Munson Station, Pa. "I was so sick and nervous, was not able to do any work at all; had to hire it all done. My husband's mother had been using your remedies, and one day she came over to see me and brought some of your 'Favorite Prescription' with her, and she said, 'Take that medicine—I know it will help you.' I took it and it *did* help me and I got better of the bad feelings that I had before I commenced taking it; was soon able to do my work myself. I took the medicine right along till after confinement, and I can safely say that Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription is better than all the other doctors' medicine put together. Now I am happy and well and the people who saw me before when I was sick and see me now have said—'How well you look,' and they ask me what I got to make me so well. I quickly tell them what made me better. It used to be before I used your medicine that every month I had severe pains and then the hemorrhage would stop and in a day or two come back again, and so on for a week at a time, and I would have to lie in bed, but now that is all over. I can go ahead with my work as if nothing was the matter. I will ever be thankful to God and you for having such remedies to help poor suffering invalids like I was myself."

THE YOUNG WIFE'S DANGER

commonly grows out of neglect of conditions which seem to her trivial. But every variation from the normal, in the womanly functions is a prophesy of evil to come. Irregularity in the girl is often the beginning of a deranged condition, which in wifehood opens the way to serious disease. Inflammation comes and ulceration to be followed by that condition of general disease known as "female weakness." No woman is fit to be married in whom the womanly function is not regular and healthful. The use of Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription insures this regularity and more than all, gives positive strength and vigor to the womanly organs.

"*I wrote you for advice* February 4th, 1896," writes Mrs. Loma Haistead, of Claremore, Cherokee Nat., Ind. Ty. "I was racking with pain from the back of my head down to my heels. Had hemorrhage for weeks at a time, and was unable to sit up for ten minutes at a time. You answered my letter, advised me to use your valuable medicines, viz., Dr. Pierce's 'Favorite Prescription,' 'Golden Medical Discovery,' and 'Pleasant Pellets,' also gave advice about injections, baths and diet. To my surprise, in four months from the time I began your treatment I was a well woman and have not had the backache since, and now I put in sixteen hours a day at hard work."

WHY DO WOMEN WAIT

when they discover the first symptoms of the diseases peculiar to their sex? The question is not hard to answer. Women wait because they dread to face the unpleasant questions, the indelicate examinations, and the obnoxious local treatment which their friends have undergone at the hands of some local physician. Woman's modesty is affronted by these things, and disease is allowed to go unchecked. Dr. Pierce has earned the undying gratitude of thousands of women who have taken advantage of his offer of *free* consultation by letter, and have been treated and cured as was Mrs. Halstead, without having to submit to questions, examinations and local treatments, offensive to every modest minded woman, and only submitted to when there seems no other way of escape.

If after undergoing all the mental martyrdom attending on such treatment, the suffering woman could be sure of a cure, it would be some consolation to her outraged feelings. But the average local practitioner can make no allowance for the differences in women. He treats them all alike, strong and weak, and makes no allowance for the delicately constructed woman, whose fine organization revolts at the crudity of his methods. The use of "Favorite Prescription" and Dr. Pierce's treatment have resulted in cures where physicians and surgeons have been entirely baffled and helpless.

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SUSANNAH.

A Story of the Fort Hammond Massacre of 1675.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY SARAH E. GANNETT.

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SUSANNAH! Susannah! Drat the girl! Where has she gone now? She is more like a parched pea than ever in her movements this morning. Here I am with my hands in the butter, the cruller fat's like to be in the fire, and those pies are burning in the oven, I'm positive," and good Dame Hammond hastily freed her hands from the butter she was working, snatched the skillet of fat from the fire and set it to one side in the ashes, then seized the long handled shovel and reached far into the depths of the big brick oven for the scorching pies. She was just setting the last one on the white kitchen table when Susannah appeared in the doorway.

"My patience, wench!" exclaimed the good lady. "Is it fools' holiday with you to-day that you do so neglect the work? Shame upon you for a runaway that you are, and me with more than I can possibly do with one pair of hands at my call."

"I crave your pardon, mistress," replied the young girl, gently. "I did but go to the brow of the cliff to look for Indians. My mind misgives me sorely but they are lurking about here; and I much fear they intend to fall upon us as soon as night be come."

"And pray, what reason have you for thinking thus darkly of the Indians to-day? We have never had trouble from them, and they ever seem friendly. Why are you so uneasy? Have you seen aught awry?"

"Naught but little things. Rover sniffs suspiciously about and barks at the underbrush; the cattle are uneasy, and toss their heads and low; the horses will not stay in the lower pasture and feed, but are huddled together in this end of the paddock with their necks stretched toward us over the stone wall. I wish the men were home from the fields, and I wish you would let me call the children within the stockade and close the gate."

"Nonsense, Susannah! Why do you worry so much about the Indians? They are perfectly inoffensive. They are fond of us, I tell you, girl, and wouldn't hurt one of us."

"I do not feel so sure of that, indeed I do not. Only a few weeks ago I heard Mr. Davis say that the Indians think Mr. Hammond cheats them in trade, and does not give them a fair bargain for their furs; and they have threatened to be revenged upon him," and the tears stood in the eyes of the young girl.

"Say you so? Why have I never heard of this?"

"I did not like to give you the ill news unless there was really cause for anxiety; but I have watched, oh, I have watched *so* closely by day and by night! Please let me call the children in and fasten the gate."

Mrs. Hammond did not answer at once, but stepped to the door, shaded and protected by the protruding upper story of the house, and gazed about at the distant woods and the blue Kennebec flashing and glittering in the August sun, and spreading wide, above the Narrows, into Merrymeeting Bay. A movement on the further shore startled her, and she hastily stepped without the stockade to look for the children. They were not to be seen, but Susannah ran lightly down the cliff side to the water's edge, and soon reappeared carrying a little girl of three years while two other children clung to her skirts and impeded her movements as she climbed. Mrs. Hammond half laughed as she nervously caught her baby to her breast and kissed her.

"See how you have frightened me, foolish girl. I thought I saw Indians on the western bluff there, but it was naught save the bushes moving in the wind. However, we will be on the safe side and take the children within. I fear me they like it not, though," she added, as all three began to whimper at being taken away from their delightful play.

"Now, Susannah," she continued, as the gate was made fast, "we must make up for lost time. The oven must be heated again for bread, the crullers must be fried, dinner is to get and clear away, and all that flax must be spun before dark," and the two women went to work with a will; the only sounds heard for some time being the rattle of dishes and the clatter of their stout shoes on the puncheon floor. But after dinner, as they busied themselves at their flax wheels in the wide, cool upper room, while the children played quietly in one corner, their anxious looks would stray over fields, woods and river, and they talked together in low tones of their suspicions.

"Indeed, I wish the men were home!" at last

exclaimed Susannah. "Where are they this afternoon, Mrs. Hammond?"

"I heard Mr. Hammond say, at noon, that he and Francis Card and son Herediah would be at the mill, grinding. James and Samuel are with John Dean in the blacksmith shop, and the other four men are in the fields at work. They'll be tired enough when they get home, for the sun is hot to-day."

The long summer afternoon wore slowly on, and sunset found the family of sixteen souls all at home in the fortified house; the animals and fowls fed and fastened securely in their sheds inside the stockade, the children in their beds, and the older people weary and longing to follow them. To all the fears and pleadings of Mrs. Hammond and Susannah the men gave scant attention.

"Nonsense, girl!" cried Mr. Hammond; "The Indians mean no harm to us. They are cowards—the Indians around here. They dare not attack us, even were they disposed to do so. But they have no such wish. They know too well on which side their bread is buttered."

"But Mr. Davis told me that they think you cheat them in buying their furs, and they are angry and mean to be revenged."

"Oh, fudge! Don't believe all you hear. Davis was always a tale-bearer and scandal-monger, and this time, as in many another, he has heard more than any one else."

"Well, Richard," said his wife, "I hope you are right, but I cannot feel safe to-night."

"I'm sorry, good wife, for your fears, but I am too tired to sit up to watch with you;" and, kicking off his shoes, the worthy farmer turned into his bedroom, and his deep snores soon told of his heavy sleep.

One by one the men followed his example, and soon only the two women and the oldest son of Mrs. Hammond by a former marriage, James Smith, were left in the kitchen. James was as tired as the others, but he would not leave the women to watch alone, although he did not believe the reports or share their anxiety. At last, he, too, succumbed to weariness, and lay like a log asleep on a settle.

About nine o'clock Susannah's fears so overcame her that she stole without the stockade to look about a little. As she stood in the shadow of the gate peering around she was violently startled at the sight of three Indians coming towards her, while two or three others hovered in the distance. The leader spoke to her, and she recognized him as one who frequently traded with Mr. Hammond.

"What for young squaw frightened? Me no hurt. Me good Indian. Me Tasset. Young squaw know me. Me come to trade skins; see?" and he pointed to the packs they carried. "We walk long way—just come. We sleep here—to-morrow we trade; see? No be frightened." And he led her gently to the gate, which she had left ajar, and shut her in.

Mrs. Hammond was so far reassured by Susannah's story of her talk with Tasset, added to the confidence of the men, that she concluded they had been too easily frightened and both she and James went to bed. Susannah, too, went upstairs, but she could not sleep and often rose and crept to the window; and her suspicions grew as she noted more and more dusky forms in the distance.

At last she could bear it no longer. It was of no use to arouse the family, they would not believe her; so she crept softly downstairs and out of the house. She could at least fly to Sheepscot for help if they were attacked, and also save the Sheepscot colony from a like fate by putting them on their guard. As she opened the gate she shivered with dread of what might be behind it, but no one stopped her, so she slipped through, shut it—thereby shutting herself out of the safe shelter of the fort, for the latch-string was drawn inside—and sped swiftly to a field of tall corn near by, in which she concealed herself, and waited, trembling.

From her hiding-place she could see the dusky forms gathering in the darkness and surrounding the stockade. More and more of them appeared and at last she saw them setting up tree trunks against the stockade, over which they scrambled to the top of the wall, and one by one they silently dropped inside.

Soon sounds of blows, of screams and of scuffling came to her ears and she turned and ran. Through the cornfield, down the hill, over rocks and briers she sped—now splashing through the brook, now striking against trees in the darkness, now tripping against a stone she stumbled and fell, bruising herself badly, but she could not stop for those terrible screams rang in her ears, and the thought that all whom she held dear were dying—murdered by the cruel savages—spurred her on. Often she thought she heard the Indians behind her and the fear of falling alive into their hands was too dreadful to contemplate for a moment. So, although her strength was almost gone she kept on, scratched, bruised, breathless and bleeding; and just as day was breaking, she dropped, almost senseless, at the door of Jabez Stinson at Sheepscot River, and gasped out her terrible story. Warned by her the settlers quickly armed themselves to resist an attack, but none came.

At the fort the Indians, who were of the Kennebec tribe and not so fierce and bloodthirsty as other tribes in the vicinity, contented themselves with killing only the two men against whom they had a grudge—Richard Hammond and Samuel Smith. The others they took captive, rifled the house, fired it with all the surrounding buildings and departed. Part of them remained with the captives and conducted them to their wigwams up the river, while the remainder went south to Arrowsic Island, where they continued the work of pillaging and destruction.

On the way up the river, one rainy night, Francis Card escaped in the darkness, made his way to Boston and told there the story of the massacre and the pillage and destruction of the fort. Of only one of the household, Susannah, could he give no account. The last seen of her by any one was when she climbed the ladder to her sleeping room, three hours before the Indians burst in upon them. He said to the Governor that Susannah had been sure all day that the Indians would attack them that night and that she must have stolen downstairs and outside the stockade to watch after all the family were asleep, and been killed by the Indians to prevent her giving the alarm to those inside the fort. She had been out once during the evening for the purpose, and the devils sent her back indoors then with fair and gentle words.

Nearly a year passed by and June had spread the land with her fairest flowers, when a little company of ragged, sunburned pilgrims might have been seen making their way into Boston. Footsore they were and weary, but their faces shone and their eyes sparkled with the joy of freedom. At their head walked Mrs. Hammond, bearing in her hand a letter—illiterately written and expressed—from the Indian chiefs to the Governor of Boston, freely surrendering unharmed, the twenty prisoners accompanying it, but setting forth, in a pathetic way, the wrongs and deprivations to which they themselves had been subjected by the whites.

Out upon the streets of Boston poured its people, eager to welcome the returning captives; and foremost among them, with outstretched hands and joyous words, were Francis Card and Susannah—his newly married wife—whom he had found in the home of the Sheepscot farmer, Jabez Stinson, and had wooed and won during the past winter.

COLONEL AND VOLUNTEER.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY F. E. BURNHAM.

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FISKE was one of a company of volunteers that went to the front when the war with Spain began. His company left home one morning in June, followed by the prayers and good wishes of fathers and mothers, sweethearts and wives. Every man of them was brave after the tears and handshakings were over and they were fairly off; every man was eager to smell the smoke of battle and help avenge the destruction of the Maine.

The spiteful hiss of a mauser bullet and the smoke from the first skirmish changed all this, and more than one wished to himself, if he did not wish openly, that the hills of Vermont were nearer, and the dusty roads of Cuba removed to the other end of the Universe.

Fiske stepped into the colonel's tent one evening after a slight engagement with the enemy; he was pale and his voice trembled, though he strove desperately to control it.

"Pretty sharp fight, this, Colonel!" said Fiske, shifting uneasily from foot to foot.

The colonel glanced up from his writing.

"Salute!"

"O, I forgot, Colonel."

"You don't want to forget. Salute!"

Fiske obeyed, saluting with precision that would have done credit to a West Pointer.

"I say, Colonel, it was a sharp fight!"

"Do you call that a fight?" replied the colonel, contemptuously, "that was only a skirmish. Were you scared?"

"No, not scared, but——"

"Nervous, eh?" suggested the colonel. "It's too bad your mother isn't here to chirk you up."

Fiske flushed hotly, but did not reply. Instead, he strode angrily out of the tent. He was furious. At home the colonel was a different man, one to whom he could freely talk—a neighbor. Now all was changed. The colonel was all importance and his seeming arrogance was unbearable. A short distance from the colonel's tent Fiske met several men from his company.

"Swallowed a ramrod, Bert?" asked one, noting Fiske's erect carriage.

"No," replied Fiske, "but I guess the colonel has. When he was getting us together, it was Mr. Jones and Mr. Fiske and Mr. Somebody Else; now it's—*Salute!*"

"Don't mind, Bert," said one of the men, good naturedly, "when it comes to the scratch there won't be any saluting; it'll be each man for himself and bullets for the sneaking Spaniards. There's going to be a battle soon, and somebody is going to get hurt."

"That's just what I think," said Fiske, his voice dropping, "it's mighty lonesome way down here, boys."

The men understood, but there was not one among them to suggest what the colonel suggested. Perhaps some of them were in Fiske's frame of mind.

"Here's a letter for you, Fiske," said the mailcarrier as Fiske passed on his way to his own tent.

Fiske's eyes lighted up as he noted the backing of the envelope. It was from home, one he had been expecting for several days, and he hastened to his tent.

The letter:

"MY DEAR SON:—Here at home we are watching the movements of the army with the interest which only those who have sons and husbands at the front can understand. You are far from here, many hundred miles, but the same love that cared for you at home surrounds you while on the battlefield.

"It is a terrible thing, this war, taking each others' lives, but duty demands that some one shall go to war, and you have gone. Be brave, my son, even as we have faith that you are brave.

"Sophie says that you will be the last one to fear of all those who went from here. She reminds me of the time you risked your life on the lake and saved the children.

* * * * * * *

"Your father adds a word, hoping that it will find you well and of good courage."

"MY BRAVE SON:—

"I wish I was down there with you; it would seem like old times. Some of the boys will be scared when they hear the whistle of the bullets, but don't you mind; follow the flag and know that the good wishes of everybody here follow you.

"Sock it to the yellow-jackets, Bert.

Your loving father."

Fiske read the letter several times and then slipped it into his pocket. Somehow with the reading of the letter the fear that had fast been gaining possession of him departed and he felt that he could face a regiment of Spaniards armed with mauser rifles.

The following day there was a battle. Fiske was asleep when some one roughly shook him.

"Get a hustle on, old boy, our company is about to start to the front to meet the enemy. You've overslept, Bert."

In less time than it takes to tell it, Fiske had slipped on his shoes and strapped up his blanket and few belongings; a few moments later he had joined his comrades.

The fight was on in less than an hour. Bullets began to whistle and it was not long before some of the men began to drop, one here and one there, like stray leaves falling in the early autumn. Suddenly Fiske felt a sharp pain in his thigh and the next instant he was lying on his back. The company had swept onward with the rest of the regiment.

Presently Fiske looked about him. Others had fallen, too, among them an officer. Fiske dragged himself along the ground until he reached the side of the man. It was Colonel Brice.

"Tough fight, Colonel," said Fiske, raising himself on his elbow.

"You, Fiske?"

"Fiske it is," said the young man, saluting as well as he could under the circumstances.

"Yes, comrade," replied the Colonel, "this has been a fight."

For a few moments the Colonel wrote with a pencil on a bit of paper, now and then pausing to rest. Suddenly he stopped and turned to Fiske, who was trying to stop the flow of blood from his wound.

"Here, Fiske," said he, "keep this; I'm not going to be here long. I thought you were a coward, Fiske, but—but I was mistaken. Tell, well, tell—oh, I don't know, I guess I'll go to sleep."

This was the paper that Fiske brought home from war, the paper Colonel Brice had given him:

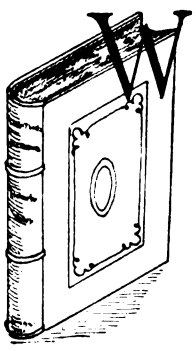
"Fiske is a hero. The wound in the back signifies no cowardice. The flag dropped and he stooped to raise it. He was shot while in the act.

COLONEL J. N. BRICE."

"IN TILL—"

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY A. M. BARNES.

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"WHAT conclusions, Palgrave?"

"None whatever, Pentwick. I have drifted even further out to sea."

"Well, we must find headlight somewhere. Read the slip again."

Palgrave picked up the slip of parchment, crumpled and partly soiled. It had been hurriedly torn from a sheet legal cap size, and presented quite an uneven appearance, the wider end being about two inches in depth, the other no more than one. With a voice pitched unnecessarily high, Palgrave read the words on the slip:

"£17000 are in Till—"

Here it ended abruptly, even more so than Palgrave's thin voice, which broke into innumerable little dying quavers.

"He says there are £17000 in the till. That accounts for no more money being visible when his effects were gone through. Every one knows that Sirius Crabstone was a wealthy man."

"But we have searched the till."

"I know; and found nothing. But there may be a secret drawer, a false back, or something of that kind. Let us go again for a search."

They left the sitting-room, and descended to the lower or ground floor. Here, at one time, Sirius Crabstone had carried on quite an extensive cabinet business. He had been fond of the work; could make all kinds of rare, beautifully carved furniture, which was in much demand for the homes of the rich planters living up the Cooper and Ashley. He had made a fortune before he hardly knew it. Being more ardently a student than an artisan, he at length gave up his trade to bury himself in books, their delights having long allured him.

He had no kith or kin near him. The only relatives he was known to have were two nieces in an adjoining state. One of them had occasionally visited him. Except for the domestic who attended his wants, he lived entirely alone.

Sirius Crabstone had left his will duly signed and witnessed. There was no trouble about that; all was clear and to the point. Most of the furniture of his house and £2000 in the hands of a private party at interest he left to the Home of the Aged; his books, with some exceptions, to the Apprentices' Library. The balance of the money was to be equally divided between his two nieces, after one fourth had been deducted as a legacy for his old friends, Palgrave and Pentwick, ship-builders, who were named as executors of the will.

But where was the money?

He had written that it was "In Till—," meaning the till, or money-drawer, of course; seventeen thousand pounds of it. There it was plainly enough on the crumpled bit of parchment that had been found beside him when he died. He had evidently purposed to add more, but the stroke of death had fallen too quickly.

They had gone, of course, to the till in the old cabinet shop, for what other till could be meant? But though they had searched carefully and slowly, even taking the drawer out to look it over closely, not one pound could be found.

Again the executors had met and again they had come to search the till. This time they literally left nothing of it save chips and shavings. There were plenty of these, for the two worked hard and patiently, but not a vestige of money.

On the fifth day thereafter one of the nieces arrived, the one who had made him an occasional visit. When told of the matter her perplexity, too, was great. She thought long and deeply. Her face suddenly cleared, then shone radiantly. She knew her uncle's habits better than any one. What was a puzzle to the others was no longer a puzzle to her.

"Oh, I have it now!" she cried. "Why didn't I think of it before?"

"What?" questioned Mr. Pentwick eagerly.

"Listen and I will tell you."

"Wonderful!" he exclaimed when she had

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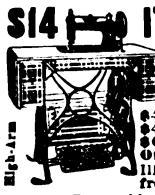
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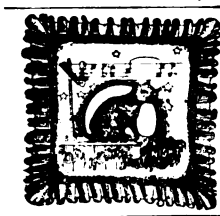
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finished. "It takes a woman every time," and he bowed profoundly to Miss Crabstone.

"Can it be possible?" cried Mr. Palgrave who was still in doubt. "It seems almost incredible!"

"Put it to the test and see," suggested Miss Crabstone, with a little gurgling laugh of the deepest enjoyment.

Suddenly Mr. Palgrave's face clouded.

"Consternation!" he cried, "why, it has been sold!"

"When? Where?" and Miss Crabstone started up in alarm.

"Why, do go at once," entreated Miss Crabstone, "and buy it back. Offer any price, any reasonable price, I mean."

"Don't be alarmed," assured Mr. Pentwick. "If it is there he will restore it, and at the price paid for it. The danger is that he has sold it to another."

Mr. O'Hara, the honest, genial Irishman, was in his Curiosity Shop. His wares, of all sizes, sorts and conditions, were piled from floor to ceiling. One point about Mr. O'Hara was that he never kept anything in order. How he ever found what was wanted was one of the mysteries known only to himself. But the people liked to go to his shop just to talk with him, even when they did not desire his wares, for he had much-lore on many subjects.

It was on the same evening of the interview that Mr. Palgrave, pale and flurried, appeared in the Curiosity Shop of Mr. O'Hara.

"Article 91, Lot 7967, what have you done with it, O'Hara?"

Mr. O'Hara's thin face showed surprise at the rather abrupt question. Then he took his fingers several times across the lids of his eyes.

"Article 91, Lot 7967," he repeated, and for once—wonderful to say—Mr. O'Hara remembered.

"Sold," he continued after a moment, "sold the day before yesterday to a gentleman from up the Santee."

"His name?" gasped Mr. Palgrave.

"'His name?'" repeated Mr. O'Hara, "'his name?'" "Why, I never thought to ask it. It was a cash transaction, you see. Fancy now, Palgrave, a merchant demanding of every chance customer his name!" and Mr. O'Hara looked duly aggrieved. "The only way I knew he was from up the Santee was from hearing him ask about the boat."

Mr. Palgrave rushed away in hot pursuit of the gentleman from up the Santee, never stopping to think that in Mr. O'Hara's hands rested the chief end of the thread of the clue, its beginning. For how was he to trace even the departure from the city of the gentleman from up the Santee without a description of said gentleman?

In two days, convinced of the folly of his mode of pursuit, he returned to Mr. O'Hara for the information he ought to have asked at first. This time with him came Mr. Pentwick.

"'How did look?'" repeated Mr. O'Hara. "Tall, dark, heavy-browed, stoop in the shoulders and catch in voice; wore a dark brown suit, ruffled shirt front, black silk hat, and carried a cane with a griffon's head. But man alive!" broke off Mr. O'Hara, "what do you want to know all this for now when Article 91, Lot 7967 has been returned as unsatisfactory—"

"Ah!" exclaimed Mr. Palgrave blandly.

"And sold again," finished Mr. O'Hara serenely.

"What?" Mr. Palgrave almost leaped from the floor, while Mr. Pentwick fairly gasped.

"Yes, sold again; this morning, not much more than two hours ago. First party not satisfied; second party highly so."

"Heavens, man!" cried Mr. Palgrave, hopping about like a pea on a shovel, "when you had your hands on it again why didn't you keep it? I would have given you three—yes, five, ten times the amount you paid for it."

"Bother your money!" retorted Mr. O'Hara somewhat rudely. "If you wanted the thing why didn't you say so at first!"

"I thought I did."

"You didn't. You came and inquired about Article 91, Lot 7967, which you yourself sold me among others some seven or eight days before. When I told you it had been purchased, you asked name of purchaser which I couldn't give; whereupon you rushed away like a madman. If it were a re-purchase you had in view then why didn't you say so?"

"I thought my actions spoke it loud enough," declared Mr. Palgrave somewhat testily.

"Who was the last purchaser?" asked Mr. Pentwick. His head seemed to be the cooler of the two.

"A lady."

"A lady? Ha! well that *is* funny! Strange taste for a lady!" and Mr. Pentwick seemed on the point of fairly exploding.

"Describe her, Mr. O'Hara, please."

Mr. Pentwick spoke softly, soothingly, and Mr. O'Hara was appeased.

"Young, good-looking, dressed in gray, prominently arched nose, blue eyes, which were fairly aglow as she went away, for she seemed to think she had found a treasure."

"Miss Crabstone!" declared both Mr. Pentwick and Mr. Palgrave in a breath.

"Thank you, Mr. O'Hara," said Mr. Pentwick with a beaming smile. "It seems that all our troubles are more quickly over than we thought. We know the young lady."

But the troubles of the worthy executors, Messrs. Pentwick and Palgrave, were by no means over. Indeed, they were but little more than begun. On making inquiry of Miss Crabstone she declared she had never once been near the shop of Mr. O'Hara. She had trusted too completely in the alertness and tact of her uncle's executors to take any such hand in the matter. The young lady in gray was assuredly not herself, though she would own up to the similarity of the "rather prominently arched nose and blue eyes."

By the time Mr. O'Hara was appealed to again the trail had grown cold. All that he could tell was that the young lady lived in Meeting Lane and—yes, brilliant remembrance on the part of Mr. O'Hara! she had a brother who worked in the Mercury office. It had been but a casual mention on her part, but Mr. O'Hara retained it.

There might be a half dozen brothers in the Mercury office whose sisters lived in Meeting Lane, but the right one was found at last and the directions obtained.

The young lady turned pale when she saw the two grave, business-like gentlemen. What could they want with her?

"Yes," she said, feeling relieved when she knew the nature of their errand, "I bought it. I was delighted when I found it. I was looking for something of the kind for a dear old uncle who fairly dotes on such things."

"Ah!" said Mr. Pentwick blandly, "then that which we seek is within reach. I suppose your uncle has not yet had the time to examine it thoroughly?" looking at her anxiously.

"Very little, or that is so far as I know. I got it only this morning, as you are aware, and he was busy with other things."

"My dear Miss," said Mr. Pentwick, "we do not wish to disturb your uncle in the possession of his property, made so by your love and thoughtfulness," and Mr. Pentwick gave her a courtly bow, "but we wish to have the privilege of examining it for a few moments, for the purpose of recovering therefrom certain inclosures not known to be there at the time of sale, and which the one placing them there, since deceased, did not intend should remain. I assure you the property will in nowise be injured."

She looked perplexed but was evidently won by the appeal.

"I am sure there could be no objection to that," she said.

The countenances of the two worthy executors brightened. They had feared reluctance, even opposition.

"But I forgot," her manner excited. "It is not here. Why didn't I tell you sooner? Stupid of me I declare!"

"'Not here?'" repeated Mr. Pentwick in a dazed way.

"'Not here?'" echoed Mr. Palgrave.

"But it is assuredly near at hand?" questioned Mr. Pentwick, coming to himself.

"No, not exactly. You see, it is this way: I bought it for my uncle. He is a clergyman. His home is in the West. He has only been on a visit to us and——"

"Well?" Mr. Pentwick almost held his breath as he questioned.

"He started three hours ago on his return home."

"In what way?"

"By the stage, and——"

"Yes, my dear young lady, yes." Mr. Pentwick hadn't time for the sentence introduced by the "and." "Thanks for your kindness and patience. One more question please. Your uncle's name!"

"Daniel Calthorpe."

The two executors hastily bowed themselves out.

"To the livery, Palgrave, to the livery as fast as foot will carry us!" exclaimed Mr. Pentwick when they were on the street again. "We must have the two swiftest horses procurable."

But soon another perplexity presented itself. There were two stage routes to the West, the one by Monck's Corner, the other by Dorchester. Which way had the Rev. Daniel Calthorpe gone? To go by the office of each stage line would require an hour or more.

"We must appeal again to the niece," said Mr. Pentwick.

But the niece declared she really did not know. Exasperating loss of many minutes of precious time!

"Drive to Munn's Tavern," suggested Palgrave. "Both coaches stop there. We are armed now, fortunately, with a description of the reverend gentleman."

The clergyman was finally located in the coach going by Dorchester.

"Now for it!" cried Pentwick as he shook the reins over the backs of the horses.

It was now twenty minutes to two o'clock. The coach had started at ten.

"They can't go more than six miles an hour at best speed," declared Pentwick, "for we have heard they are well loaded. We ought to travel twice as fast at least. By half-past five at outside I think we can be having our interview with the Rev. Daniel Calthorpe."

"Suppose he enters serious objection?" said Palgrave.

"O I guess not, especially when he is assured that we mean no damage to his property."

At half-past four they were ten miles behind the Western coach.

"Tennet is certainly pushing his horses too tight," declared Pentwick, and somewhat irritably. "I shall make it a point to tell Vance about it. He loves his horses too well to keep such a driver in his service."

"Maybe the fault is with us," suggested Palgrave, "that we have not been making time as planned. I have noticed for some miles back that the chestnut was not traveling so freely."

"Doubtless that is what's the matter. Well, I don't want to hurt the horses, though the bay looks good for many miles yet."

Seven miles further on good news greeted them. They learned that the Western coach had broken down and had been considerably delayed. When at length they came in sight of it Pentwick could not restrain himself.

"Hello, driver," he shouted, "stop that coach!"

Tennet saw the two determined gentlemen in hot pursuit, and realizing the utter futility of an attempt to escape with his loaded team, at once gave warning to his passengers.

"Highwaymen, gentlemen, highwaymen! Save yourselves and your valuables!"

"Don't be a fool," said Pentwick as he came within speaking distance. "Calm yourself, Ike Tennet, and act the man. You assuredly know me, Pentwick of East Bay? O now I see you do. I have followed the coach solely on business, and that business is with an old gentleman within."

There were only six passengers besides the old clergyman, who was sitting on the back seat near the window, his right shoulder leaning toward it. His face was bent downward until only the top of his head was visible, and he was evidently so engrossed in what he was doing that he had not even heard the driver's alarm, nor noted the excited stir of the passengers about him.

"Don't be disturbed, gentlemen," said Pentwick suavely, as he opened the door of the coach. "I am no more a highwayman than any one of you. I am Pentwick of Pentwick and Palgrave, shipbuilders, East Bay, and I have come solely on a matter of business with this gentleman," indicating the clergyman as he spoke. "The Rev. Daniel Calthorpe, I believe?" giving that individual a gentle shake by way of attracting his attention.

At sound of his name and the touch of the hand upon his knee Mr. Calthorpe looked up inquiringly, inclining his body forward. As he did so some lettering on the back of that which had so engrossed him came plainly into view. They were four letters of a word. The letters were large and distinct, for they were in heavy black type. They were:

TILL——

"Mr. Calthorpe, excuse me," continued Mr. Pentwick, "your niece recently, nay, this very day, made for you a purchase which you value highly; indeed, that goes without saying as your present close attention to it indicates. Before it fell into the hands of your niece it was the property of one, now dead, who placed therein certain inclosures in keeping of others. The article was sold without this having been discovered. The inclosures are now of the utmost value to their rightful owners. I desire the possession of them, and in doing so I assure you, sir, upon my word as a gentleman that no injury whatever will befall the article itself. Mr. Calthorpe, will you permit me?"

The clergyman looked at Mr. Pentwick as though measuring him. A moment passed, then, with a sigh, he placed his treasure in the outstretched palm.

"You have enjoyed it very much?" questioned Mr. Pentwick.

"Very!" with unmistakable emphasis.

"Been nearly through it?"

"More than half way."

"And found nothing?"

"Nothing, sir? What can you mean?" The old clergyman was evidently aroused now. "Why, sir, are you so ignorant as not to know that those are the richest of their kind ever inclosed within binder's casket?"

"TILL—at last!" cried Mr. Pentwick jubilantly as he came back to where Mr. Palgrave was holding the horses.

He tossed the article upward as he spoke. Two lines of lettering came clearly before Mr. Palgrave's eye, a longer one, with a shorter beneath. How plainly he could read them both!

"TILLOTSON'S SERMONS.
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A moment later a sharp penknife was working industriously, though carefully, between lightly pasted leaves. When the task has been completed, across Palgrave's knee lay seventeen one thousand pound Bank of England notes.

The old clergyman received his book again with a clasp of delight. He never knew what had been within it, nor that he had read beyond ten at least of the pasted leaves without knowing it. So much for *his* comprehension of what was "In Till—"

JULES Verne has been married fifty-five years. Although he has, in his stories, allowed himself the wildest flights of fancy, he has always led the most quiet of lives and is now spending the evening of his days in Amiens, where he and his charming old wife are among the most prosperous and highly considered citizens of that famous place.

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25 YEARS.

Cut this out and send it to us and we will send you the watch by express for examination. If as represented, pay our special price $3.75 and express charges and it is yours. Mention if you desire **ladies' or gents' size.** Order today, as we will send out samples at this reduced price for 60 days only.

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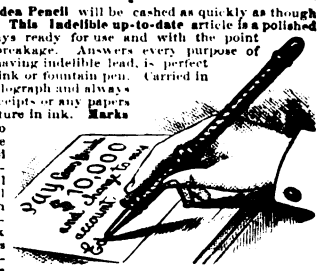


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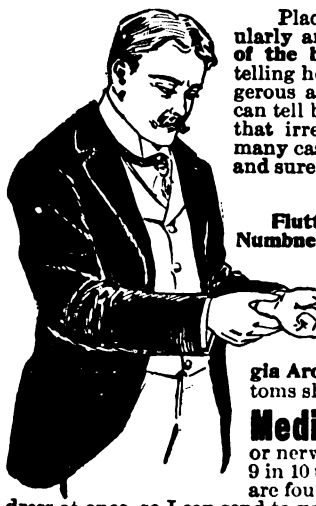
We will send FREE to any person 180 old-time favorite songs who will cut out this advertisement and send it in a letter to LYNN & CO., 48 Bond St., New York City.

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signed with **The New Idea Pencil** will be cashed as quickly as though pen and ink was used. **This indelible up-to-date** article is a polished automatic pencil always ready for use and with the point protected to prevent breakage. Answers every purpose of ordinary pencil; but, having indelible lead, is perfect substitute for pen and ink or fountain pen. Carried in the pocket like as stylograph and always ready to sign checks, receipts or any papers where you want signature in ink. **Marks linen and clothing.** No stains or blots; also the best pencil in the world for women or schoolchildren. The Ideal pencil for home or all around use and the 20th century idea of combined pencil and ink together. As hundreds will be sold after introducing, we send one free if you will send six cents to pay mailing and for a three months' trial subscription to our fine monthly story paper now going into 100,000 new homes. Send 25 cents for a year's subscription and we will send half a dozen pencils free, or for 50 cents will send two years' subscription and twelve pencils. You can make more than one hundred per cent. profit selling them. **Address SUNSHINE, Augusta, Maine.**

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Place your finger on your pulse and see if your heart beats regularly and steadily. **If there is a single skipping or irregularity of the beats, your heart is weak or diseased,** and there is no telling how soon it will stop beating altogether. Heart troubles, dangerous as they are, can be instantly recognized by all. No doctor can tell better than you if your heart is out of order. But remember that irregular or skipping beats are **only one symptom,** and in many cases are not found. Any of the following are just as positive and sure:—

Symptoms of Heart Trouble.

Fluttering, Palpitation, Shortness of Breath, Tenderness, Numbness or Pain in the Left Side, Arm or Under the Shoulder Blade; Fainting Spells, Dizziness, Hungry or Weak Spells; Spots Before the Eyes; Sudden Starting in Sleep, Dreaming, Nightmare, Choking Sensation in Throat; Oppressed Feeling in Chest; Cold Hands and Feet; Painful to Lie on Left Side; Drowsy, Swelling of the Feet or Ankles (one of the surest signs), **Neuralgia Around the Heart.** Persons having even **one** of these symptoms should not delay treatment a single day.

Medicine Free to All. If you have been treating yourself for stomach, lung, kidney or nervous disease, and have failed to find a cure, the chances are 9 in 10 that **your trouble is in your heart.** Hundreds of such cases are found every year. I want you to send me your name and address at once, so I can send to you for trial a box of my celebrated Heart Tablets **absolutely free of charge,** by mail, prepaid. Don't fail to write me if you have a single one of the above symptoms. I can cure you beyond any question, and will send the free tablets to prove it to you personally. Delays are dangerous. Inclose stamp for postage.

Address DR. AUSTIN ALBRO, Box 962 Augusta, Maine.

Men, Women and Things.

CONDUCTED BY JENNIE MELVENE DAVIS.



Bessie Potter Vonnoh is one of three or four women who have the honor of being members of the National Sculpture Society. Miss Potter's success was won through her ability to give an "up-to-date" catchiness to statuettes. These tiny portrait statuettes were bright, piquant reproductions of the friends who frequented her studio. The pose and dress were reproduced in the clay and the little gems were soon in demand. Not only were they popular with the public but also with the critics. They had all the freedom of line of a statue. Miss Potter was born in St. Louis. Her work as a sculptor began in Chicago. In that city her studio was the meeting place of all the literary and artist element. One of her most pleasing statuettes is Julia Marlowe in the character of Juliet. Miss Marlowe scratched her signature in the soft clay so that it is an autograph portrait done in marble. Miss Potter made such a financial success of the work that was begun simply for amusement that she was able to take a European tour. On her return she opened a studio in New York. Miss Potter's face is full of life, vivacity and expression. Many of the artists of Chicago painted her portrait. Mr. R. W. Vonnoh the well-known portrait painter made many portraits of Miss Potter but the last one was of Mrs. Bessie Potter Vonnoh.



Brigadier General King has gained promotion and honor for his bravery and daring in the Philippines. In spite of this he is best known to the American public as Capt. King the author of the popular military novels. "Between the Lines," "The General's Double," "Kittie's Conquest," "Winning His Spurs" and "A War-time Wooing," are among his most widely read books. Gen. King's career has been one of active adventures and stirring scenes. It is his custom to keep a series of note books that record the daily happenings of his eventful life. When a new story is under way, General King looks carefully through his note books. As a result his books have become noted for their careful accurate pictures of army life. He writes rapidly in a form of short hand invented by himself and then talks the story into a phonograph. A typewriter then follows the dictation of the phonograph and General King corrects the dictated manuscript. General King has won great financial and literary success through the work that he declares was undertaken to give an education to his sons and daughters. General King comes of good colonial stock; on one side he is a descendant of Rufus King and on the other side he claims John Eliot the famous apostle to the Indians as an ancestor. The General is now fifty-five years of age, but he is so alert in bearing that he seems at least a dozen years younger. When the Civil War broke out he was a lad of sixteen. He left school and enlisted. President Lincoln gave him a cadetship at West Point. He graduated with honor but remained at West Point until 1866, as instructor in artillery. Then followed active duty at various posts until he was assigned to staff duty in New Orleans. Here he won his wife and he declares that all his success since then has been won because he tried to make one woman happy. He has seen active service in the Indian campaigns. Trouble from a wound received on one of the expeditions finally led him to ask for retirement from the service. This was granted and he became instructor in the University of Wisconsin. In 1895, he was appointed Adjutant General of Wisconsin and did excellent work in increasing the efficiency of the militia of that state. In 1898 at the outbreak of hostilities with Spain he resumed active military service as a Brigadier General of Volunteers. March 1, 1899, he was raised to the rank of Major General for "energy, bravery and efficiency" during the engagement with the Filipino insurgents on February 5, 1899.

New England has long been the literary center of the United States. Its children have spoken a message to the whole world. High on the roll of its literary workers stands the name of Louise Chandler Moulton. Her stories and poems have won her a place in the hearts of the people and sincere praise and appreciation from the most critical members of the world of letters. To please the great mass of humanity and the critical few is seldom the lot of writers. Louise Chandler grew up in a little Connecticut town. She was an only child, sensitive and imaginative, and trained in the stern faith of the Calvinistics. Novels, dancing, games were all considered worldly and irreligious. This somber background seemed to develop the child's love for all that was beautiful in the world about her. For nearly eight years she wrote verses and at last sent a poem to a paper in Norwich, Connecticut. She tells of the intense joy that came to her when she saw the verses in print—a joy that her after successes could not parallel. Once having tasted the pleasures of printer's ink the path seemed clear. Poems and sketches were published in various magazines. Her first book "This, That and the Other" was made up of these articles. Soon after the publication of this book, Mrs. Moulton attended Mrs. Willard's famous school at Troy, N. Y. During the year she became engaged to Mr. William Moulton the editor and publisher of a paper in Boston to which she had been a constant contributor. She was married a few weeks after leaving school. Her novel "Jim Clifford" was published the same year and was followed by "My Third Book." Mrs. Moulton proved that a literary woman may be a famous housekeeper. The well-known and touching poem "If I Could keep Her So" was written regarding a little golden haired girl who came to bless her home. Bedtime Stories, More Bedtime Stories, New Bedtime Stories, Firelight Stories and Stories Told at Twilight were inspired by the little daughter. In 1898 Mr. Moulton died. Mrs. Moulton's home in Boston is a center of social, artistic and literary life. Mrs. Moulton spends some time each year in London and her circle of friends there is distinguished and cosmopolitan. Mrs. Moulton has a charming personality and is often called a Southern woman. She has the soft slow speech and the languid manner of a woman of ease and luxury but back of it is the New England perseverance that has enabled her to do much severe literary work and to climb to success.



Sir Henry Irving is easily the first of living actors. His visits to this country are always marked by crowded houses and by the sight of long lines waiting for hours to buy tickets. His life story is one of effort but of effort crowned by artistic and financial success. As a child he was fond of recitation. Long before he had ever seen a theater he loved to declaim the ballad of Chevy Chase. When Irving was ten, his parents went to London, and for two years and a half he attended school. He did not lose his natural love for reciting and his most vivid remembrance of the school is associated with the entertainments where the pupils recited English classics. The boy was put into a commercial firm but found the tasks uncongenial. At this time he became a member of the City Elocution Class which was an association of young men with tastes similar to his own. The club gave many plays in Sussex Hall and young Irving thoroughly enjoyed the part he took in these amateur entertainments. His first visit to a theater was one of the most memorable experiences in his life. The intention to become an actor grew into certainty. When he was nineteen he began his stage career by playing a small part in Richelieu. For nine years he appeared in the Provinces, and during that period gave over 428 different parts. The amount of mental labor required to memorize that number of parts is simply prodigious. At the close of the period he was able to command seventeen dollars and a half a week and to feel that the salary represented fair progress. This was the school of hard experience that trained the foremost actor of this age. It was work and hardship and perseverance. Sir Henry Irving lately addressed the students at Harvard and his text was "Do, not dream." In 1866 Irving played his first London engagement. In the '70's, Irving raised a wild excitement in London over his interpretations of Shakespeare's leading characters. Many critics were against him and even the great daily papers had leading editorials on the topic. Irving finally succeeded in convincing even his most bitter critics that his interpretation, while departing far from old traditions, was true to art. Sir Henry Irving has been the manager of the Lyceum Theater for twenty-one years. Time and money have been lavished to make this theater perfect in all details. The large sums that Irving has received for his appearances outside of England have been spent upon this theater. Irving is beloved and respected by all who know him well. He has a large collection of theatrical prints said to be the finest in existence. He entertains liberally but the bulk of his capital has gone to make the Lyceum Theater what it is. He has played short engagements in America during this winter but his tour has been hurried as the duties of manager of the Lyceum Theater require his presence in London.



To be the author of a book of which over 3,000,000 copies have been sold is a remarkable thing. To be the author of a book that bids fair to work a social and religious reform is not less remarkable. Rev. Charles M. Sheldon has achieved the dual distinction through his book "In His Steps." The book has been translated into French, German, Swedish, Norwegian, Russian and Italian. Rev. Mr. Sheldon is forty-two years of age. He was born in Wellsville, New York, but his father who was a clergyman moved to Dakota and it is the spirit and method of the West that has shaped Charles Sheldon's work. His education was obtained at the famous Phillips Academy, Brown University and Andover. He spent some time in England and Scotland studying the life of the poorer people. His first charge was in Vermont. He was not content with the conservative methods of Christian workers and he at once began the work of getting in touch with his people, not alone through the pulpit but by personal contact with their daily lives. In 1888 he accepted a call to Topeka, Kansas. Here he pursued his idea of close personal knowledge of the people and their wants. He became a student at the college, he worked as a day laborer, he met the physicians and lawyers in their offices and he made it his business to have a knowledge of humanity gained from humanity and not from books. He took special interest in his work in the negro quarter of Topeka. Prizes were offered for the best kept lawns and houses and a free kindergarten was established through his efforts. In 1891 he began the plan of reading a chapter of a book to his congregation on Sunday evening. The chapter was written during the week. The first book that he read was called "Robert Bruce." It was followed in succession by Robert Hardy's Seven Days, The Twentieth Door, The Crucifixion of Philip Strong, John King's Question Class, His Brother's Keeper, and in 1896, In His Steps. Since this famous book he has written Malcolm Kirk, The Redemption of Freetown, One of the Two, The Miracle at Markham and For Christ and the Church. Each book has been read to his church congregation and the listeners have increased in number so that the church could be filled twice over. Mr. Sheldon has refused many tempting offers to lecture. He is not eloquent or attractive as a speaker but he possesses the unrivaled charm of intense sincerity. His sudden and world wide fame will not divert the man from the line of work he has mapped out for himself. He speaks at Christian Endeavor meetings and recently asked that the sum of $1,000,000 be raised in order to support a daily Christian newspaper along the lines mapped out "In His Steps." The sum of his belief and teachings were summed up in these words spoken to the graduating class of Washburn College. "What we do in the world is not worth doing unless it is done to the glory of God."

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Mr. Truth Cures, by Divine Force, the Sick Who Write Him From Any Distance.

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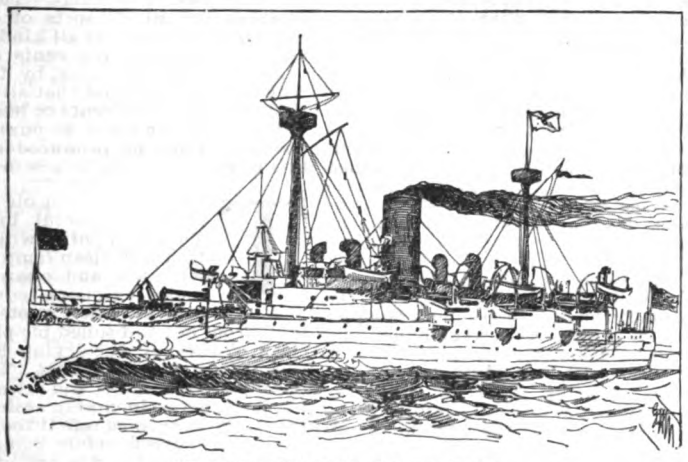
Address, **FRANCIS TRUTH, 6 8 BOWDOIN SQUARE, BOSTON, MASS.**

CURRENT TOPICS IN AMERICAN HISTORY

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.

GREAT and hidden are the dangers which beset the mariner sailing in unknown seas. The loss of the cruiser Charleston off the Island of Luzon in the Philippines on Nov. 7th is an example of this truth. As the Charleston was sailing along that night on the regular patrol of the northern coast of Luzon, she ran upon an unchartered reef and immediately sank. The fore part of the vessel held close upon the reef, and the latter part filled and gradually sank. As usual in disasters to American ships, there was no panic in the crew, but on the contrary most remarkable discipline and presence of mind. While nearly everything on the ship was lost, not a single man was drowned but all quietly and in order escaped to the neighboring islands. A few days after the ship entirely disappeared, and it is supposed that her hold upon the reef under her bow lessened and that she slid off into deep water; thus every hope of saving her was abandoned. The Charleston was one of the oldest of the new navy ships, having been built in 1888. In 1889 she was commissioned as flagship in the Pacific squadron. She attained considerable celebrity during the time in which it seemed probable that we should have a war with Chili by running down the fast Chilian transport "Itata" which had coaled in one of the ports of California in defiance to our neutrality laws.

Two United States marshals, finding the "Itata" coaling, went aboard of her to protest and to stop the work. The captain of the transport immediately went to sea, taking the marshals with him. Difficult as the pursuit of a single vessel is upon the high seas, the Charleston effectually captured the "Itata" and brought her back to port. The relations between the two countries at the time became so strained that war seemed inevitable, but it will be remembered was averted by the common sense displayed by the people in both countries. The Charleston was a protected cruiser, 300 feet long and cost $1,017,000. She carried a main battery of six six-inch guns and two eight-inch guns, and was equipped with four torpedo tubes. She carried a complement of a little over 300 men, and was considered an effective vessel of her class. A few years ago her loss would have been almost irreparable, but at the present time the United States has 13 of a similar class of ships in the new navy, and so rapid is the improvement in modern naval vessels that ships of the Charleston's make and class are fast becoming old-fashioned. She will undoubtedly be replaced with a new vessel of more modern make by the present Congress.



THE LOST CRUISER CHARLESTON.

Another addition to our navy is a sister ship of the Kearsarge which was illustrated last month. The Kentucky is a first class battleship built by the Newport News Shipbuilding Co., of Virginia; she recently had her official trial trip and maintained a sustained speed of over 17 knots, which is about 20 land miles, for four consecutive hours. The tide was against her, and when this is figured out she will undoubtedly attain even better record than the remarkable figure above given. Great as this performance is, it would undoubtedly have been still more remarkable had it not been that there was a northeast storm and high sea raging at the time which must have had some effect to prevent her attaining the highest possible figure. Her return cruise from the trial gave the highest record at a cruising speed. It is doubtful if in the navies of the world there are two fleeter or stronger fighting machines than these two ships which will soon be in commission in the navy.

As the month closes, the condition of affairs in the Philippines has changed remarkably from what it was six weeks ago. At that time the American people were worried at apparent inaction of Gen. Otis, and previous to the elections many were half-hearted in their support of the administration's policy in regard to the islands. The result of the elections wherever the question of the Philippine policy came up was so strong in favor of the administration that its effect must have been felt among the insurgents. At the same time a most vigorous advance on the part of the American troops under Gen. MacArthur and Gen. Lawton formed a cordon around the insurgent armies. The objective point at first was Tarlac, which was occupied as a capital by the insurgent government. This was one of the many capitals which have been invaded by American troops. Tarlac was taken without any real fighting although there were a series of skirmishes in which we lost some of our soldiers and valuable officers. Among the latter was Major Logan, a son of the late Gen. John A. Logan, and one of the most brilliant officers in the American army. He had won considerable distinction in the Spanish war and still more in the Philippines. The whole nation sympathizes with Mrs. Gen. Logan who has lost an idolized son in his death.



GEN. MACARTHUR.

The rainy season in the Philippines continued longer than was expected, and the roads even at present are almost impassable. Notwithstanding this fact, most rapid and determined advances and sweeping use of cavalry have been made and the insurgents scattered until at this writing it is but little more than a bandit or guerilla warfare. The Filipino Congress dissolved itself, many of its members surrendering to American authorities and others fleeing to the mountains, but with the general understanding it was never to meet again. The chief members of the cabinet were captured or surrendered, and at the time of this writing Aguinaldo with an army of 2000 men is in full retreat with his men disheartened and deserting at every turn. By the time this paper reaches its readers he will have been captured, or escaped through the lines which is much more probable, and made his way to some other land. In all probability he will reach Hong Kong where he is safe from extradition, and it is to be feared will remain a thorn in the American flesh for a long time. It will be remembered it was from Hong Kong that he plotted the last insurrection against the Spaniards after he had been sent there on his word of honor that he would not molest that nation, after his unsuccessful earlier insurrection.



GEN. JOSEPH WHEELER.

The greatest praise is due to the earnest work of Generals MacArthur, Lawton and Wheeler, all of whom have shown great intelligence in the present campaign which is so full of successful results. Gen. Wheeler always commands the attention of the American public, and his recent public interview in which he called on Congress to immediately state in emphatic language that the Americans intended to hold the Philippines indefinitely, and that American law was to be maintained, has caused much comment. It is believed that this would be a wise step, in that it has been generally known and publicly stated that the insurgents were only held together by the idea that the retention of these islands by the Americans was generally unpopular in this country, and that should it be understood otherwise the insurgents would have no heart to continue their rebellion. The vigorous efforts of the Government in the tremendous increase of reenforcements evidently had its effect in disheartening the rebels.

The death of Vice President Hobart though not unexpected came suddenly and painlessly at last. President McKinley immediately issued a proclamation relative to it and flags were displayed at half-mast throughout the country. His funeral was attended by all the high dignitaries and foreign representatives and the high position he had won both as an official and as a private citizen was very manifest. His funeral was notable in one respect, being the occasion of lowering flags on almost every legation, a courtesy seldom extended to any public man.



HON. WILLIAM PITT FRYE.

Mr. Hobart had been a very tactful man in the position he had held. The Vice Presidency is usually looked upon as a rather ornamental position in which a man may be conveniently shelved; but he made it an active and forceful part of the government and was something more than the usual figurehead. Being in full accord with the administration, he was able to aid and sustain it in legislation, constantly. It is unfortunately true that often the President and Vice President are chosen from opposite factions in the same party; and that, in consequence, their term of office is a state of armed neutrality, if not open warfare. In this case however entire harmony prevailed and was greatly to the interests of the country at large.

By Mr. Hobart's death, the President of the Senate, *pro tem.* Hon. William Pitt Frye, of Maine, becomes its presiding officer and practically acts as Vice President until March 4, 1901, when a new Vice President will take the oath of office. Mr. Frye has had long public service. He was in the Maine legislature and afterwards sent to Congress. In Maine it is a custom to keep men in Congress so long as they fill the responsible position with credit and as a consequence her delegation, being tried men, always has a strength and standing entirely disproportionate to their number.

In Mr. Frye's case the usual custom has been observed and after long service in the house, he was elevated to the national Senate, where he has served with great credit and distinction. He is a ready debater and one of the best speakers in America, being particularly forceful and popular on the stump. He recently was on the Peace Commission at Paris and aided in an early settlement of the Spanish war. In the Senate he later was instrumental in securing an early ratification of the peace treaty. He will be a tower of strength in the position and his ability as a presiding officer has been so fully demonstrated that there is no experiment in it.



DAVID B. HENDERSON.

Not only will the Senate in this Congress have a new presiding officer but the familiar form of Thomas B. Reed will no longer tower behind the Speaker's desk in the House of Representatives. For reasons personal to himself, Mr. Reed withdrew from public life on his return from a summer vacation in Europe, by resigning his seat. Several candidates for the Speakership immediately appeared, but the overwhelming strength developed by David B. Henderson of Iowa, made his nomination sure and all others withdrew leaving his nomination to be made by acclamation by the Republicans, who are in a majority. Mr. Henderson is a good orator, a parliamentarian and a born diplomat. He will not have the same kind of a personality that distinguished Mr. Reed, but will be a popular presiding officer, while his long public services, which have been eminently successful, assure the country of a brilliant and elevating term in the office to which he has been chosen. Gen. Henderson has served a number of years in Congress and has held a distinguished and prominent position in the many questions of public policy which have arisen.

Unusual interest has developed among Americans over the South African war and the columns of our newspapers are loaded with telegrams relating to it. The fitting of a hospital ship by American ladies in London and naming her the *Maine* was a graceful act of sympathy. The firm stand the United States has taken with the Boer government which declined to have our American representative act in British interests shows that Uncle Sam knows his power and is no longer to be trifled with. In all cases of war the retiring ministers of the belligerent governments leave their interest in the hands of a neutral government minister. In the late Spanish war British representatives acted for us, while the French acted for Spain. Kruger's attempt to overthrow this established usage was short-lived.

The condition of affairs in Cuba is less pleasing than it has been. The President's message, which has been remarkably well received by both the nation and by congress, indicates the immediate appointment of Gen. Wood as military governor of the island. The colored people are agitating immediate independence, while the property holders naturally want Federal supervision. Should these colored Marauders carry out any scheme of uprising, they will be taught the same lesson that the Filipino is learning of the difference between American and Spanish soldiers.

Our growing commerce and a balance of trade of $600,000,000 in our favor indicates a season of wonderful prosperity. The growth of our Eastern trade has compelled our government to address a note to each foreign government claiming a "sphere" in China as to its inventions. The "zone of influence" policy of foreign nations is to grab a large portion of China and restricts foreign trade from that province to that one country. England and the United States both stand by the "open door" policy, meaning that every country shall have equal rights with every other country in trading in any part of China; and that existing trade treaties with the Celestial empire will be maintained everywhere in the kingdom.

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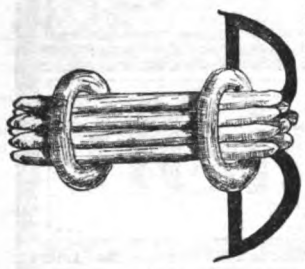


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CONDUCTED BY AUNT SARAH.



READ may or may not be the "staff of life," but we all know it holds an important position in our diet and we want it at its best.

There is no excuse for having sour, unpalatable bread. We give a recipe which makes two loaves of bread.

WHEAT BREAD.

Into a bowl put two cups boiling water or scalded milk and add two tablespoons sugar, one teaspoon salt, and, when liquid has become luke-warm, one yeast cake dissolved in one-half cup warm water. Mix in enough flour to make a stiff dough—about seven cups. Knead until the dough is elastic, cover and set to rise. When the dough has doubled its bulk knead slightly while still in the bowl. When again double in bulk, make into two loaves and set to rise in buttered pans; when it has risen the third time bake one hour.

If a brown, glossy crust is desired, brush over the top of each loaf, a short time before removing from the oven, a little sugar dissolved in milk, or the beaten yolk of an egg diluted with a little milk.

For a change once in a while have

ENTIRE WHEAT BREAD.

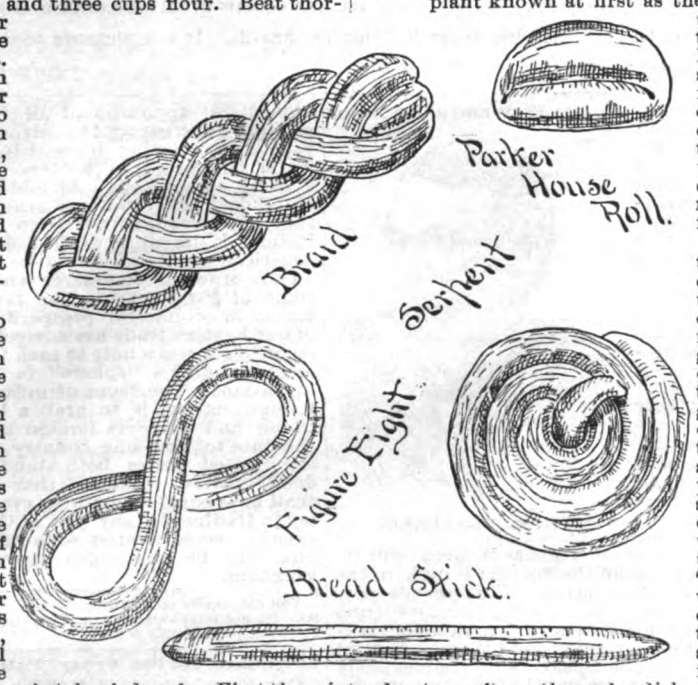
Put one tablespoon shortening, two tablespoons molasses and one and a half teaspoons salt into a mixing bowl; pour on one cup boiling water and one cup scalded milk; when luke-warm add one yeast cake dissolved in one-fourth cup warm water; then add flour, using one cup white flour and enough entire wheat to knead. After kneading put in a bowl, cover and set to rise. Shape in loaves, again let rise and bake in a hot oven about fifty minutes.

We give illustrations of various fancy rolls, which are made from what we call the

"DINNER ROLL MIXTURE."

Put one-fourth cup butter, two tablespoons sugar and one teaspoon salt in a bowl and pour on two cups scalded milk; when luke-warm add one yeast cake dissolved in one-fourth cup warm water, and three cups flour. Beat thoroughly, cover and let rise until light. Cut down and add flour enough to knead. Then let rise again, shape, place on buttered sheets, again let rise and bake in a hot oven about fifteen minutes.

If one is to give a course luncheon there may be two or more courses with which bread in some form should be served. It is a little more attractive and dainty if served in different shapes for the various courses, though all may be made from the same batch of dough. First there is the bread stick, which, when baked, is about six inches long and the size of one's finger. Then the Parker House and oyster roll, which should be made very small. The figure eight is simply a long, twisted piece, and the serpent is a long coiled piece, one end brought up through the middle to form the head. The braid is made by taking three long pieces and fastening them together and then braiding. It is easier to make a long braid and then cut it into smaller ones, say three inches in length.



PULLED BREAD.

Remove crusts from a fresh loaf of French bread—gash the loaf at the ends and pull apart into halves; cut the halves and pull apart into quarters, repeating the process until the pieces are the size of bread sticks. Put in a pan in oven to dry and then brown delicately. These may be kept in an air tight tin box for sometime, and just before serving should be put into the oven to make them crisp.

Right here let me speak of the heavy crash which is now being extensively used for kneading bread, instead of the usual moulding board. It is considered much more healthful as it can be kept perfectly clean and so free from germs. It is simply a large piece of heavy crash, which has been washed and ironed and is spread directly upon the table; the flour is then sprinkled over it and the bread kneaded exactly as when the board is used.

For the soup course, serve the bread sticks, or Imperial Sticks, which are shown in our initial. These are made from stale bread, as follows:

IMPERIAL STICKS.

Cut stale bread into thin slices, remove the crusts and spread with butter and cut into one-third inch strips. Lay on a baking sheet and bake until of a delicate brown. Cut also some rings, from the thin buttered slices of bread, and bake in the same way. Serve the rings with the sticks put through them, one or two rings with three or four of the sticks, to each person, either upon a small plate, or on a folded napkin.

Possibly a few other suggestions for using up stale bread may be acceptable.

TOMATO CREAM SOUP.

Scald one quart of milk with half an onion, into which stick four cloves; add a small piece of bay leaf, a little parsley and three-fourths cup of stale bread crumbs. Remove the seasoning and rub bread through a fine sieve. Cook two cups tomatoes with two teaspoons sugar for fifteen minutes, add one-fourth teaspoon soda, rub through sieve, and add to the bread and milk. Add five tablespoons butter in small pieces and season with salt and pepper.

The crumbs should first be taken from the inside of the loaf; then the soft sides of the crusts should be grated off by the use of a large grater. The crusts themselves should not be used. After the bread has been grated and rubbed as fine as possible, it should be put through a sieve, so that all the crumbs may be of a uniform size; it is then so fine that it thickens much the same as flour does, and yet gives a pleasanter flavor to the soup.

EGGS ON TOAST.

Cut thin slices of stale bread, and from each slice cut a circular piece as large as possible without including the crusts. Saute in butter and place on a hot platter. Pour over the slices a white sauce, and arrange on each piece some chopped ham, the whites of eggs finely chopped and the yolks forced through a ricer. Garnish with parsley.

This makes a nice breakfast or luncheon dish. As the eggs are cold, it is necessary to set the platter into the oven for five minutes before putting on the parsley.

The white sauce is made of one and one-half tablespoons flour, two tablespoons butter, one-fourth teaspoon salt and one cup milk. The butter is melted and the flour rubbed in and then the hot milk is added. This is called a thin white sauce, and if a thick one is desired, the addition of another tablespoon of flour is all that is necessary.

To "saute" is simply to fry quickly.

ORANGE PUDDING.

Soak one and one-third cups stale bread crumbs in one cup of cold water for twenty minutes; add one cup sugar, one cup orange juice, one tablespoon lemon juice, two whole eggs and the yolk of another, slightly beaten, one tablespoon melted butter and one-fourth teaspoon salt. Bake in a buttered pudding dish in a slow oven until firm. Cool slightly and cover with a frosting made from the whites of two eggs, two tablespoons powdered sugar and one-fourth teaspoon orange extract.

Please bear in mind that all our measurements are *level*.

THE POTATO.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.

WHEN Pizarro and his companions, while seeking for gold among the mountains of Peru, saw the Indians cultivating the plant known at first as the *Papas Peruanorum*, they certainly did not suspect the importance of their discovery, nor the services which it was destined to render to mankind.

Admitted to the tables of the rich, under some one of the many disguises created by the inventive genius of culinary art, the potato appears in its primitive state at those of the poor, where served up in its "jacket," and with no other conditions than salt and hunger, it forms, only too often, the sole dish. But when, less than half a century ago, in that country which, more than any other, had relied on the potato as an article of food, a sudden blight destroyed in a few days the hopes of the husbandman, the wealthy, no less than the humble, felt the disaster, and the potato famine, by the bitter memories it left in the minds of the Irish people, and the impetus it gave to emigration, produced wide-spreading and untoward results, of which we do not as yet descry the termination.

The first tubers known in Europe under the name of potatoes were of a different order of plants from those which now bear that name. It was during Magellan's journey round the world (1591—1522) that Pigagetta, an Italian naturalist who accompanied him, saw in Brazil, the Batata, or sweet potato. We do not, however, know if it was thence brought to Spain, or at a later period from Peru, but it was most probably the Spaniards and the Portuguese who introduced it into their colonies in the East, and it is now cultivated in India, China, Japan, the Southern States of the Union, and in Italy. In England, the trade with Spain made it known as an article of commerce under the names of "potades" or "potatoes," a corruption of the Spanish, and it seems to have been in demand for making conserves and sweetmeats. A little later, on the invasion of Peru, the Spaniards became acquainted with a root called "papa," resembling the batata, but of a hardier nature; and from the descriptions of it given by the historians of the Conquests, it seems to be what we now know as the potato. For centuries before the arrival of the Spaniards the Peruvian Incas had paid great attention to the development of agriculture, and as the "papa" formed the principal nutriment of the inhabitants of the higher and colder regions, unsuited to the cultivation of maize or batatas, it must have been an object of special care, since the names of as many as eleven varieties are to be found in dictionaries of the Peruvian language.

Pedro de Ciesa, a companion of Pizarro and Garcilaso de la Vega, the earliest writers who describe the "papa," state that the Indians crush the tubers to expel the water, then dry them in the sun, and thus prepare a food called Chuno, which can be preserved for a considerable time.

The exact date of the introduction of the potato into England, and the name of the person to whom the English owe it, are still matters of uncertainty. It has always been maintained that, in 1565 Sir John Hawkins brought the potato from Santa Fe, in Venezuela, and that Sir Walter Raleigh brought it into Ireland from Virginia in 1568. But the chronicler of Sir John Hawkins' travels merely states that at Santa Fe Indians came to them with potatoes and pineapples for sale; the word "potato" meaning at that time only the batata, which must have been already known as an article of commerce, while the tuber we now call the potato did not receive that name till many years later.

For many years the cultivation of the tuber made but little progress in the United Kingdom. In Scotland it became known in Kirkcudbright as late as 1725, in Stirlingshire in 1728, and in Forfarshire in 1730. It was not till 1740 that a season of peculiar severity gave the first impulse to the more extensive cultivation of a root which promised to be an effectual remedy against such a visitation. It was at that time, however, raised only by spade culture, which required more exertion than the slovenly farmers of those days cared to submit to and it was generally believed that it could be preserved only by being left in the earth where it grew. The potato, therefore, was not grown on an extensive scale and it was only about 1790, when farming had come to be better understood and practiced throughout Scotland, that its value was fully recognized and that it met with the attention it deserved.

The same want of appreciation of the potato long prevailed in England. In Lancashire, where it was probably brought from Ireland, it was planted in the fields in 1634, but it is only a little more than a hundred years since its cultivation became general. When Arthur Young made his tours through England, between 1767 and 1770, he found that in very extensive tracts of the country over which he traveled, potatoes were not a common article of culture; but that in the north more farmers grew them than in the south or east. In France Turgot was the first to point out its utility, during a famine which occurred while he was *Intendant* of Limousin, between 1761 and 1773 and he had at first great difficulty in conquering the prejudices of the people, who only consented to make use of it after *M l'Intendant* had had it served up at his own table. The efforts of Antoine Parmentier in the same direction were more successful. His attention was first drawn to the cultivation of the potato by the prize offered in 1771 by the Academy of Besancon for the discovery of alimentary substance which might compensate for the deficiency of corn at a time of scarcity. He gained the prize by an essay, in which he demonstrated the nutritious qualities of the starch contained in many plants, and obtained from the Government leave to sow with potatoes fifty-four acres of a sterile tract near Versailles. At first the incredulous public laughed at the seemingly hopeless undertaking, but, when the plants grew up, Parmentier presented a bouquet of the flowers to Louis XVI. The King, who had always been favorably inclined towards Parmentier, accepted them willingly, and appeared in public wearing them in his buttonhole. The patronage of Royalty rendered the plant at once fashionable; the prejudices existing against it disappeared and the government was enabled to spread its culture throughout the Provinces.

Toward the close of the eighteenth century it was extensively cultivated throughout Germany, but it was only after the wars of Napoleon that it began to be used for the production of the potato-spirit, which now forms such an important branch of German commerce.

The potato disease was first observed in 1764 and during sixty or seventy years it ravaged districts situated in widely separated countries.

A STRINGENT FOOD LAW.

The law enacted by the Missouri legislature, which prohibits the manufacture or sale of any article intended for food or to be used in the preparation of food, which contains alum, arsenic, ammonia, etc., places that state in the advance in the matter of sanitary legislation.

Laws restricting the use of alum in bread have been in force in England, Germany and France for many years. In this country, in Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Ohio, Kentucky and several other states, direct legislation in reference to the sale of alum baking powders has also been effected. In several of these states their sale is prohibited unless they are branded to show that they contain alum, nd in the District of Columbia, under the laws of Congress, the sale of bread containing alum has been made illegal.

Following are the names of some of the brands of baking powder which are shown by recent analysis to contain alum. House-keepers and grocers should cut the list out and keep it for reference:

Baking Powders Containing Alum:

DAVIS' O. K., DRY YEAST, ... Contain Alum.
R. B. Davis & Co., New York.
CALUMET . . . . . Contains Alum.
Calumet Baking Powder Co., Chicago.
GRAND UNION . . . . . Contains Alum.
Grand Union Tea Co., New York.
BON BON, HOTEL, ... Contain Alum.
Grant Chemical Co., Chicago.
GOOD LUCK . . . . . Contains Alum.
Southern Mfg. Co., Richmond.
EGG . . . . . Contains Alum.
Egg Baking Powder Co., New York.
A. & P. . . . . Contains Alum.
Atlantic & Pacific Tea Co., New York.
K. C. I. C. . . . . Contain Alum.
Jaques Mfg. Co., Chicago.
CROWN . . . . . Contains Alum.
J. P. Dieter Co., Chicago.
KENTON. . . . . Contains Alum.
Potter-Parlin Co., Cincinnati.
DELICATESSE . . . . . Contains Alum.
Delicatesse Baking Powder Co., New York.

In addition to these, many grocers sell what they call their own private or special brands. These powders are put up for the grocer, and his name put upon the labels by manufacturers of alum powders. The manufacturers, it is said, find their efforts to market their goods in this way greatly aided by the ambition of the grocer to sell a powder with his own name upon the label, especially as he can make an abnormal profit upon it. Many grocers, doubtless, do not know that the powders they are thus pushing are alum powders, the sale of which would be a misdemeanor under the law referred to.

It is quite impossible to give the names of all the alum baking powders. They are constantly appearing in all sorts of disguises, under different names and at all kinds of prices, even as low as five and ten cents a pound. They can be avoided, however, by the housekeeper who will bear in mind that all baking powders sold at twenty-five cents or less per pound are liable to contain alum, as pure cream of tartar powders cannot be produced at anything like this price.

TAKE care of the old newspapers, for they are useful in many things. They will polish window-glasses and they will clean lamp chimneys, they will test and clean flatirons, they make excellent covers for pantry shelves, they protect the kitchen table from hot and soiled pie plates, they cover clean clothes on the drying horse to protect them from flies and dust. They are a great moth preventive, too, and articles packed away for the summer in closely sealed bags of newspaper, are sure to be safe if they were properly aired and brushed before being packed. Bags made of old newspapers are excellent, too, for keeping herbs and seeds.

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Contributors must without exception be regular subscribers to Comfort, and every contribution must bear the writer's own name and post-office address in full.

Original letters only, which deal with matters of general interest, will be published. They must be as brief, plain and correct as the writers can make them, and may vary in length from one hundred to four hundred words. Only letters of exceptional merit and interest may reach six hundred and fifty words. Contributors must write on one side of the paper only.

$10 CASH PRIZES $10.

The following cash prizes will be paid monthly:

1st.	For the best original letter	$3.00
2nd.	" " second best original letter	2.50
3rd.	" " third " " "	2.00
4th.	" " fourth " " "	1.50
5th.	" " fifth " " "	1.00

Competitors for these monthly cash prizes must *comply with all the above rules*, and in addition must bring at least one new Cousin into the COMFORT circle; that is, they must send one new subscriber with each letter, together with 50 cents for a yearly subscription.

These cash prizes will be announced monthly in this department.

No premiums will be given for subscriptions sent in under this Prize Offer.

All communications must be addressed to Aunt Minerva, care of COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

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Mrs. G. H. Lowell,	**1.00**

DEAR NIECES AND NEPHEWS:

Happy New Year to you all, dear friends. Here is 1900 with us at last. How bright and hopeful it spreads out before us! How much it promises in the way of peace, prosperity and happiness! We have no war on our hands, if we except that in the Philippines; business is active everywhere, and for pleasure there is the Paris exposition. What more can we ask?—except that we use our blessings rightly and make the most we can of them both for ourselves and for others.

Our first letter this month takes us away from the howling storms of the north into the sunny state of Louisiana, and shows us the old city of New Orleans in her many aspects.

"Aunt Minerva suggests that some one who has 'been and done' it should furnish a brief sketch of New Orleans and the old French Market. But what pen can paint an adequate picture of that queer, sunny old town, with her antique buildings, lovely parks, canals of black waters, statues, banks of roses, laden orange trees, stately palaces and filthy hovels, flocks of goats, geese, cattle, and horses grazing on the lush swamps sandwiched between suburban homes, her wharves with ships of all nations, steamers, large and small, craft of all kinds. The customs and costumes of half the nations of the earth mix and mingle on her streets. There goes a Mexican with jeweled sombrero, pausing to sample the wares of a small, brown lad who cries with shrill voice: 'Hot Tomales! Chili-con-noni!' And there, down the middle of the street, passes a sailor's funeral party—sailors in full dress uniform forming a hollow square made by grasping a rope, within which is carried the corpse—the whole preceded by a band, whose music is indeed 'grand, gloomy and peculiar' to an American ear.



THE OLD FRENCH MARKET, NEW ORLEANS.

"The city, built on a thin crust over the swampy, crescent-shaped peninsula, is lower than the river, and a visitor goes to bed with a creepy, uncomfortable fear that the mighty yellow flood of the formidable Mississippi will burst its bounds and engulf the whole city. But the natives laugh at such a suggestion, and only pause for a moment to exclaim with astonishment when a big slice of earth crumbles away from the insidious inroads of the dangerous waters. The cemeteries are deservedly famous as being the most unique in America, the dead being 'buried' above ground. The slime-covered gutters, the pools reeking with decaying vegetation seem to offer an open invitation to yellow fever and cholera.

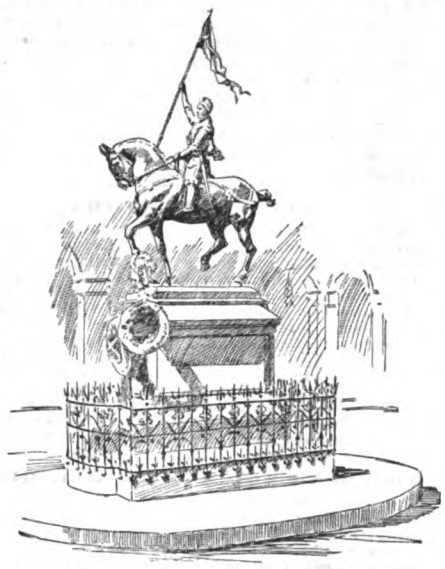
"We explored the French Market, where everything under the sun is offered for sale in every patois imaginable, including the Choctaw, in which a withered squaw with a bright-eyed pappoose tied to her back, hawked her beaded things and eagle feathers. We went for a Sunday 'fish-breakfast' at a French restaurant in the rambling old market. We explored the old French quarter, once the haunt of the *'haut ton'* but now quaint and ancient enough. We were shown the house where Lafitte, the pirate, lived, loved, was married and died the conventional 'death in bed', so little to be expected of a daredevil like he was. The old Cathedral of St. Louis, full of wonders and storied interest—the shrines, the cemeteries, Custom-house, Mint, etc., claim one's attention, and the sight-seeing is incomplete till one visits the jetties, the Gulf, Chalmette, and the two most noted pleasure resorts—West End and Spanish Fort, where one's first exclamation is: 'Arcadia! pure and simple!' But the exquisite flowers, the fountains filled with gold and scarlet fish, the maze or labyrinth composed of jessamine hedge, the moss-draped live-oaks, the ponds of huge alligators, swings for children, all out-door appliances for innocent pleasure, disguise but fail to conceal the real nature of the place. Gambling in every form, billiards, cards, games of all sorts go on all day Sunday. New Orleans is said by those capable of judging to be more like old-world cities than any other in America."

ROSE LANE BROWN, Athens, Tennessee.

As a general thing we like to confine our letters to those dealing with our own country, its wonders, its inventions and its industries; but this year when so many are going abroad, it will be well for us to wander a little also and we will begin by taking a peep at the old town of Rouen, France, and the monument there erected to Joan of Arc.

"While on my way from Paris to the seaport Dieppe to cross the English Channel we stopped off for a day in Rouen, one of the oldest and most historic of the cities of France. It existed in the days of Julius Cæsar and later on was the capital of Normandy and the home of William the Conqueror.

"But the city of Rouen is especially interesting to the traveler for its connection with the life of



MONUMENT OF JOAN OF ARC, ROUEN, FRANCE.

Joan of Arc. It was here that the poor, unfortunate Maid of Orleans was brought after having been captured by the English, and where she was finally burned at the stake. The city of Rouen was at that time (1431) a British possession. There is now to be seen the remains of a tower of an old castle in which Joan was imprisoned, tried and put to the rack. The tower is called after her name. In the square near by is a statue of this remarkable heroine erected on the very spot, it is said, where she met her tragic death.

"Not far from here can be seen an ancient bell tower (Grosse Horloge), built in 1389. In this tower, in olden time, hung the curfew bell which was rung for fifteen minutes every evening to remind the inhabitants that it was time to turn in, and woe to him who did not heed its warning. He was either thrashed by the watch or robbed by the thieves. One of the most beautiful Gothic cathedrals in all Europe is at Rouen. It was built in the thirteenth century, and has twenty-five chapels and numerous monuments. Henry the Second is buried here, also the heart of Richard Couer de Lion. One of the towers of the cathedral, called the 'Butter tower' (Tour de Buerre), takes its name from the fact that it was erected by means of the money paid by people for permission to eat butter during Lent. The church of Saint Ouen, not far from the cathedral, is another magnificent specimen of Gothic architecture.

"Many of the streets of Rouen are well and regularly built with fine modern stone houses adorning them. But much of the city consists of old, picturesque streets and squares, with tall, quaintly carved, wooden-bound and gabled houses. Some of the streets are very narrow, so narrow that you can stand in the middle of them and reaching out touch houses on either side. As we wandered about here looking at the ancient houses, we could easily believe ourselves transported back a few hundred years. But we were suddenly made to realize that we were living in the every-day nineteenth century, for right above our heads, decorating one of the oldest of the buildings, we spied in plain English the advertisement of Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup! We left Rouen feeling that no matter how far we might travel in foreign parts we could never get away from enterprising America."

ELIZABETH WOOD, Batavia, N. Y.

Let people say what they will of the beauties and wonders of foreign lands, yet I cannot help feeling that our own country is the best and the most beautiful of them all, and so let us come back to it and visit one of its historic bits of scenery as described in the next letter.

"One of the most romantic and historic spots in Illinois is Starved Rock, around which many events of interest have taken place since first visited by white men. In September, 1673, Marquette, Joliet, five oarsmen and two Indian interpreters sailed up the Illinois river, being the first time a white man had ever seen the waters of the 'Lone and sluggish Illinois'.

"The first use made of the Rock was by La Salle, who, with Tonti, came to this section in 1679, and resolved to build a fort on 'Le Rocher' as he named it. He and Tonti spent some time at the 'great town' of the Illini Indians situated about one mile west of the Rock on the north bank of the river.

"The French, at that time, intended to build a chain of forts from Canada to Louisiana and found a mighty empire in the Mississippi valley and La Salle intended the fort at 'Le Rocher,' to be one of the principal forts in the chain. In December, 1682, the French soldiers dragged the logs up the steep sides of 'Le Rocher' and constructed Fort St. Louis on its summit. Shortly after La Salle returned to France and never returned to this region, as he was assassinated while on an expedition in Texas. Tonti remained in command, but the forces and defenses melted away and in 1700 all that remained was a few stakes of the stockade.

"About the year 1770 occurred the melancholy event which gave to the cliff its present name. During a council of war, Pontiac, an Ottawa chief, but holding great power over the Pottawatomies, was killed by an Illini brave. The Pottawatomies determined to destroy the Illini, who fled to the cliff now called 'Starved Rock,' and the Pottawatomies camped below to starve them out, and, after weary days of watching, succeeded; the ill-fated



STARVED ROCK.

Indians plunging headlong down among the enemy, one after another, singing the death song. A small remnant which tried to escape was massacred without mercy.

"'Starved Rock' is on the south bank of the Illinois river in La Salle county, and upon the river front it rises one hundred and fifty-seven feet above the river. It is nearly circular in form with a level top containing half an acre. A deep gorge on the east, a valley on the south and west isolates it from neighboring bluffs, and its summit can only be reached by climbing up a seriesof ledges on the south side. Geologists assert that the valley of the Illinois was once the bed of a mighty prehistoric flood which has left its action on the soft sandstone in this valley, and that 'Starved Rock' is a monument of that grinding and buffeting flood."

A. W. TAYLOR, Mt. Sterling, Ill.

Our next letter, on the Catlin Coal Mines, is, I suspect, written by one of my juvenile nephews; but, as his letter is well written it shall have a place among the rest. He says:

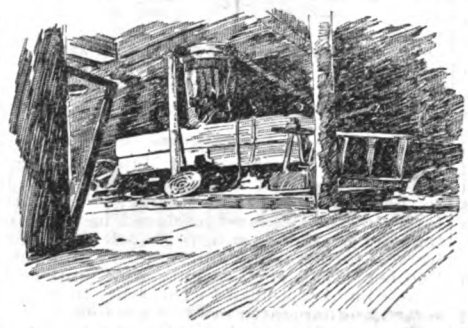
"Over the hole through which the coal is hoisted out there is a kind of scaffold which the cage runs up and down. On the north side there is a pair of scales and the coal is dumped into this by means of a self-dumping cage. By the side of the scales stands a man who takes down the weight of the cars of coal and then dumps them into the shaker screen which separates the slack from the nut coal. Both slack and nut coal are dumped into flat cars and hauled away. On the south side is a large brick building inside of which is the engine which hoists the coal. Now we will go into the mine. The cager gives the engineer three bells and the cage is lowered to the ground landing. As it sinks with you you feel as if you were falling. Now we are at the bottom, and you may take your choice as to whether you will walk or ride. Suppose we ride. We enter the car, the driver cracks his whip and off start the mules down the path. Here we are at the working part of the mines. Men are busy getting out the coal by means of picks or loading it on cars like that in which we rode."

OSCAR PATI, Vandercook, Ill.

Now we have a "tale of the Spanish war," which war has not yet, I take it, lost its interest for my readers.

"Among the many relics of our late war there are none which attracts so much attention or which so impress one with the destructiveness of modern warfare as the ex-Spanish cruiser, Reina Mercedes. This ship arrived at Old Point Comfort on the ninth of May, and after remaining there in quarantine for a week was brought directly to the navy yard at Portsmouth, Virginia.

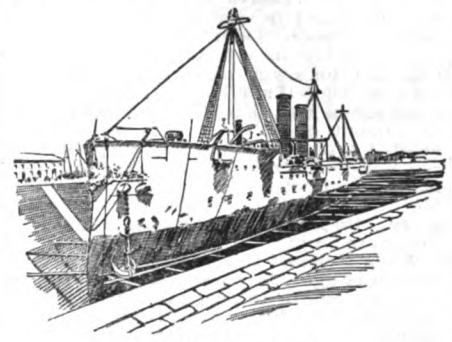
"The cruiser is now in the dry dock undergoing temporary repairs; after which she will be sent to Portsmouth, N. H., where she will probably be used as a receiving ship. Her hull is staunch, but her decks and machinery are so badly wrecked from shells and rust that to put her in fighting trim would cost more money than our Government feels justified in expending. At first sight of the ship one is surprised at her old and battle-scarred appearance. Her hull is pierced in many places with great, jagged rents, which have been patched



WRECKED DECK OF THE MERCEDES.

with iron plates, and altogether one might imagine her to be a relic of the Civil war or a veteran of many naval fights.

"On going aboard one gains a better idea of the damage sustained. The starboard side of the bridge was struck and wrecked by a shell which also killed ten men on the gun deck below. On this deck the funnels and ventilators are pierced in many places; the large smokestack has a hole nearly a yard square, besides numberless smaller ones; and on every side are marks of shot and shell. The berth deck sustained the worst handling, and it is here that the force and accuracy of our guns is best indicated. A twelve inch shell came through the thick plates near aft, cutting through them as if they were nothing more than paper, then ploughing its way through six or eight iron beams an inch or more in thickness, and curving slightly downward exploded in the dynamo, leaving it a mass of wreckage. Another shell came through in this vicinity, cutting the large mast in two and continuing through the opposite side leaving a rent large enough to admit a man's body. A large piece of one of these shells has since been found weighing fifty pounds. The floor of this deck is torn up for a considerable distance and



REINA MERCEDES.

everything presents the appearance of having been the target for a withering and well directed fire."

ASHBY WATKINS, Portsmouth, Va.

Now we will take a little trip to stern New England, but we will forget that she is at the present moment locked in ice and snow, and will try to view her in her summer aspects, as we read the following letter.

"Old Orchard Beach is one of the principal seaside resorts of the country, situated on the shores of the eastern part of Maine, and Casco Bay. The facilities for bathing here are exceedingly good, and the beach, which has a long, hard, level margin of sand at low tide, making a delightful spot for ball games, bicycle riding, croquet, and other pastimes, is of course, the principal attraction. Not very many pretty things were to be found on these sands of the sea. I could see nothing except the ubiquitous clam shell, sand dollar, (so called) star fish, sea weed and sea moss.

"Everybody who goes to Old Orchard takes a walk on the steel pier which is well worth inspection. It is said to be over two thousand feet long, and one hundred and twenty-five feet wide, and is protected by a stout railing. At the ocean end is a pretty casino where one may buy almost anything in the way of eatables, soda and souvenirs, and be entertained with band concerts. A train of miniature cars runs the length of this pier. This train is not so small, however, but that it will accommodate thirty two adults. Each car is an open seat, and will serve but one person. The train is drawn by a cunning little engine which boasts of a startling little whistle and a musical little bell.

"The steam cars take one from Old Orchard to the large city of Portland, twelve miles away, and to its fascinating harbor attractions, and both steam cars and electrics run to the interesting towns of Saco and Biddeford. Saco river is separated from the ocean by an enormous stone breakwater, against which the breakers dash defiantly. Biddeford Pool, situated near, is only saved from being romantic by its abundant supply of lobsters. The pool itself is a bit treacherous and fascinating.

"I cannot close this article without reference to the unique little peanutena team, which in summer was seen daily at Old Orchard. The body of this conveyance, which was highly polished, resembled a peanut, placed horizontally on wheels, and had a compartment in the back, containing a confection called peanutena, which was offered for sale. Above this body was a high seat, on which sat a pretty little girl, about seven years of age, fancifully dressed, and skillfully driving tandem two little donkeys wearing fine apparel and tinkling bells."

G. H. LOWELL, Newport, N. H.

Our cousin, Beular Keller, sends us a description of her home which makes me wish it were summer, so that I might travel there and get a drink from the cool "poplar spring." She says:

"About fifty or sixty years ago when this land was all in woods there were very few people settled in the country around. The main road ran through here and close to the road stood two large poplar trees between which was a strong spring of the best water in the country. This being before the railroad was built through here large droves of cattle were often driven through from one place to another. They always made this one of their watering stations. The man who then owned the land, cleared a portion which was close to the road, and built there, over the spring, a large log house, three stories in height. Here he kept a tavern and post office and also a small grocery. The place was called Poplar Spring, by which name it is still known.

"Then a wealthy man bought the farm, tore down the old house and built upon its site a large brick house which contains, besides its many rooms above ground, four cellars. One of these, containing the spring, is called the dairy cellar, and is six feet deep. There are two other springs in the cellars and two long trenches. These are all dug from the solid rock, and all the cellars have cemented floors. The water is very cool and refreshing, and in the dryest weather is of great abundance. One of the cellars is very dark, there being but one door. This cellar is used for keeping fruit in the winter, as it is impossible for fruit to freeze in the dark cellar.

"There are two outside buildings, also of brick, one being the smoke house and the other a store house for wood and coal. All are surrounded by brick pavements."

BEULAR KELLER, Cameron, West Va.

And now my space is full and I must reluctantly adjourn the meeting and bid my nieces and nephews good-by for a season.

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The Case of Bobby Goslington.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



WHEN a soft-toothed man goes into metropolitan newspaperdom with a firm determination to remain, a shudder goes through the body journalistic, and a strong wind arises from the shaking of old heads. It was so when Bobby Goslington went on the city staff of the *Morning Wail*, and I suppose it will ever be so while newspapers are what they are and new reporters dance fearlessly upon ground sown thick with mines.

Bobby Goslington was very soft and blind. The atmosphere surrounding the *Wail* appeared red to him, whereas really it was the sickliest of yellow; and he labored under the delusion that the paper was a powerful factor in the uplifting of mankind, while in reality it was only uplifting itself, and bringing blood or honor at every lift. He did not know this—did not wish to know it. It was not for him to suspect the motives of the great. His own heart was as clean as his upper lip. Guilelessness sported in his bosom. An excellent opinion of himself—justified perhaps—occupied the best room in his head, and complacently refused to move at the behest of other equally excellent and more important opinions. He was of the *Wail*, hence the *Wail* was good. It is a common enough method of reasoning. I have no fault to find with it.

Bobby Goslington was a native of Bunkersville. Nobody knows where Bunkersville is. It is somewhere upon the same map with New York, and it has to be satisfied with that, and hold its peace. When Bobby left Bunkersville his he.. had been wrenched a good deal. It pained him somewhat to feel that the parents who had brought him in and up were to lose the best thing they had ever done. Then there was a girl whom he had loved distractedly when he was not feeling very well, and upon whom he had expended a vast quantity of dignified affection at other times. She was a nice little thing, and she considered him to be solid gold, which he was not, any more than the rest of us. We are all plated, and some of us cannot show white metal where the rubs have come.

Bobby had been two years upon the *Wail* staff before he returned to Bunkersville. He had been granted a vacation reluctantly, which was a great compliment. The old heads had ceased to shake as he passed through the doorway. They considered the danger to be largely over now, and they drew long breaths laden with beer, and expressed hope for his future. And while they did so Bobby was rushing pell-mell into enough trouble to make up for everything.

At a certain station on the railroad which by some inexplicable chance led to Bunkersville, a tall, distinguished-looking man got aboard the train and set himself beside Bobby Goslington. More, he engaged Bobby Goslington in conversation, and so won upon his good graces that the soft young man was not surprised to learn, although the information dropped out quite accidentally, that the gentleman was none other than a prominent candidate for the United States Senate—a man whose name was set in big, black letters at the heads of news-columns—a man whose every utterance was considered worthy of publication.

Bobby Goslington trembled as the hunter trembles when suddenly confronted by the lion. Hesitatingly he turned the conversation into political channels. He could scarcely credit his senses. The great man talked—talked on general politics and, finally, stated his opinion relative to the Blugwug Bill, upon which the smoothest interviewers had failed to bring him to commit himself. It was the crucial point, that Blugwug Bill; it was the all-important issue of a mighty contest. He got off the train shortly after stating his views upon the Blugwug Bill and Bobby hugged himself for twenty miles. Then he looked at his watch. It was five o'clock. Bunkersville was four hours distant. He resolved to disembark at the next station, go to a hotel and write his story. Bunkersville could wait; the story was too good to keep.

Thus it came about that shortly after seven of that evening the telegraph editor of the *Wail* was rushing frantically to the Old Man with Bobby's story, and the Old Man was looking it over with shining eyes and Goslington stock was thundering at the top. The *Wail* came out the next morning with headlines bigger than it had used since the taking of Santiago. It was glorious.

Then the scene changed—abruptly. The Old Man was running his hands through his hair while a number of wildly irate politicians, among them the candidate for Senator, who had returned to town that morning, danced about him, spouting red-hot words.

"O Lord!" exclaimed the candidate for Senator. "O Lord! You've gone and plumped the whole plumpetty-plump thing into the plumpetty-plump fire—plumpetty-plump it!"

This was sad news to the Old Man, and he showed it. "Did—didn't you say it?" he asked meekly.

"No, sir; I said nothing! Think I'm a donketty-donk donkey? Your young man interviewed some other fellow—some viletty-vile enemy of mine! You've got to retract!"

"Well, I guess not!" The neck of the Old Man straightened. "No, no; I don't think! You've stated an opinion on the Blugwug Bill, now you've got to stick by it."

"Stick by it!" The candidate for Senator was thunderstruck. "Me—an opinion—stick by it—O Lord!"

"I know it's ridiculous," said the Old Man softly, "but the *Wail* can't go back on a column of stuff like that. Come; we'll support you and you can drag the Bill off somewhere after a while and kill it if you don't like it."

"I had much rather kill that youngetty-young man of yours!" said the candidate giving in.

"I'll attend to his case," said the Old Man grimly.

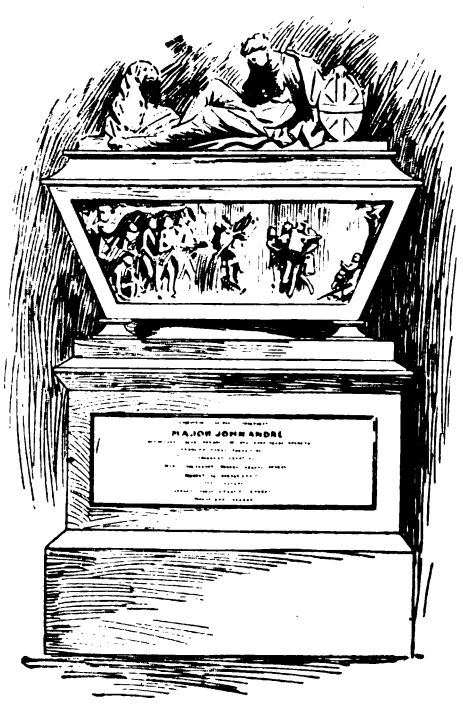
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In Bunkersville that day Bobby Goslington went forth to call upon the girl. His chin was high in the air and the prospects were not flattering for a pleasant reunion of two loving hearts. Bobby was conscious of having made the "beat" of the year, and the consciousness was crowding the reunion fireworks into a small corner and crushing them dreadfully. As he was entering the familiar front gate a boy handed him an envelope. At the same instant the door opened and the girl came fluttering and blushing down the path to meet him.

"O Bobby," she cried, "are you home to stay?"

"N-no"—Bobby was opening the envelope—"y-y-yes—I—believe—I—am!"

The telegram floated to the ground and he kissed the girl tenderly, with a new born meekness showing in his eyes.



ANDRE'S MONUMENT.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.

"Sacred to the memory of Major Andre, who, raised by his merit at an early period of life, to the rank of Adjutant-General of the British forces in America, and employed in an important but hazardous enterprise, fell a sacrifice to his zeal for his King and country, on the 2d October, 1780, aged twenty-nine, universally beloved and esteemed by the army in which he served, and lamented even by his foes."

These are the words which begin the very long inscription on the monument to Major Andre in Westminster Abbey.

To me this was one of the most interesting memorials in the whole Abbey, and I was never tired of coming back to look at it again. The monument stands against the wall of the south side of the nave. It is a large panel representing a funeral casket upon a high pedestal. The inscription is carved upon the pedestal. On the casket is a bas-relief representing the presentation of Major Andre's letter to General Washington on the night before his execution. The figures in the bas-relief are about a foot high. The ease with which their heads can be broken off has been too great a temptation to relic hunters, and most of the heads have been knocked off and stolen.

The verger who showed me about the Abbey told me that the Deans at various times had had new heads fastened on, only to lose them again. When I was there one or two were gone. That such vandalism is not wholly modern is shown from the fact that Charles Lamb writes of the defacing of this very monument in this way in his "Essays of Elia." Southey, the poet, when a boy, was a pupil at the Westminster School. Later in life he was exceedingly sensitive in regard to his political principles, and for a time a serious quarrel existed between himself and Lamb, because the latter, speaking in regard to this injury to Andre's monument, described it as "the wanton mischief of some schoolboy, fired perhaps with raw notions of transatlantic freedom." Then, addressing Southey, he added, "The mischief was done about the time that you were a scholar there. Do you know anything about the unfortunate relic?"

When I visited the Abbey first, now some five years ago, there was fastened upon the wall, just above the monument, a wreath of oak leaves which the late Dean Stanley had brought from Tarrytown-on-the-Hudson, on the occasion of his last visit to America. They had been gathered in the autumn, and still showed enough of color to be in keeping with the tragedy which the monument commemorated. It was characteristic of Dean Stanley that he should have them fastened against the wall with a rusty bayonet which he also brought from the historic Hudson river battlefield. He loved Westminster Abbey. His whole life was bound up in the grand old building, but he was an eminently practical man. He liked to see crowds of visitors throng the Abbey, and he spared no thought nor effort to add to its interest. People who did not like him, or were jealous of him did not hesitate to comment on this, sometimes very emphatically. It is said that at the time Charles Dickens died, Dean Stanley hearing of his death late at night, telegraphed some member of Dickens' family in the night offering Westminster Abbey as a place of burial. In consequence of this some one was unkind enough to publicly call the Dean of Westminster Abbey a "body snatcher."

Andre was buried beneath the gallows, on the banks of the Hudson, in 1780. In 1820, after he had been dead forty years, and peace and friendliness had replaced the spirit of strife between England and the United States, the Duke of York, acting for a considerable number of interested people in England, sent a formal request to our Congress that he be allowed to remove Andre's body to England to be buried in Westminster Abbey. Congress granted the request; the Duke had the bones dug up and removed to where they now lie.

One of the most unique relics in the whole Abbey is the box in which these bones were brought over from America. This box is preserved in St. Islip's Chantry, a queer little "upper chamber" near the north ambulatory and reached by a ponderous but narrow winding stair of stone. Here are kept the famous wax effigies which always seemed to me a sort of "Mrs. Jarley's Wax Works" annex, totally out of keeping with the stately grandeur of this incomparable structure. The box, which is always pointed out to Americans by the vergers here, along with the rest of the uncanny old lumber, is as big as an ordinary large dry goods packing case and does not look unlike one. It would easily hold the bones of twenty-five men instead of one, after they had been buried forty years. When I commented on this the verger took off the cover of the case and showed me another small box fastened into one corner of the large one. He explained that back in 1820, when there were no great freight steamers racing across the Atlantic, and sailing vessels must be used, sailors were so superstitious that they would not knowingly carry a corpse on board. So the bones of the long-dead English soldier were put in the little box, the little box was packed in the big one, and the latter shipped as an innocent piece of freight. I do not say all this is true. I only say the two boxes are there, and that I saw them.

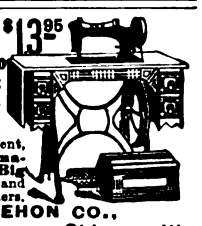
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Make Money with a stick of ELECTRIC SOLDER and a Candle. You can make a leaky pail or pan as good as new in **one minute.** No iron, no acid, no rosin, no skill or experience required. You can earn $5 doing soldering for your neighbors with the Solder and Instructions we send you **FREE,** with a six months' subscription to HOME CHEER for **10 cents.** H. Franklin Jones, Dept. 7, Brooklyn, N.Y.



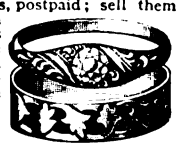
Ladies' or Gents' size

FREE



WATCHES, RINGS, WATCH-CHAINS AND CHARMS, &c. As a grand premium, any one can earn this **Beautiful Gold Plated Hunting Case Stem Winder Watch, Charm and Chain,** a perfect timekeeper, by selling our **ELECTRIC LAMP WICKS.** They can be sold in a few hours. They are practically indestructible. No trimming; no smoke; no smell.

OUR SPECIAL 90-DAY OFFER, which is apart from the above: Send us your name and address (no money); we will send you 20 wicks, postpaid; sell them at 5 cts. each and remit us $1, and we will mail to your address, *free,* a Beautiful **Gold Plated WATCH-CHAIN AND CHARM, also a Handsome Gold Finished Ring.**



ELECTRICAL WICK CO.,
Dept. B, Orange, N. J.

The Fear of Humbug

Prevents Many People From Trying a Good Medicine.

Stomach troubles are so common and in most cases so obstinate to cure that people are apt to look with suspicion on any remedy claiming to be a radical, permanent cure for dyspepsia and indigestion. Many such pride themselves on their acuteness in never being humbugged, especially in medicines.

This fear of being humbugged can be carried too far, so far, in fact, that many people suffer for years with weak digestion rather than risk a little time and money in faithfully testing the claims made of a preparation so reliable and universally used as Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets.

Now Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets are vastly different in one important respect from ordinary proprietary medicines for the reason that they are not a secret patent medicine, no secret is made of their ingredients, but analysis shows them to contain the natural digestive ferments, pure aseptic pepsin, the digestive acids, Golden Seal, bismuth, hydrastis and nux. They are not cathartic, neither do they act powerfully on any organ, but they cure indigestion on the common sense plan of digesting the food eaten thoroughly before it has time to ferment, sour and cause the mischief. This is the only secret of their success.

Cathartic pills never have and never can cure indigestion and stomach troubles because they act entirely on the bowels, whereas the whole trouble is really in the stomach.

Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets taken after meals digest the food. That is all there is to it. Food not digested or half digested is poison as it creates gas, acidity, headaches, palpitation of the heart, loss of flesh and appetite and many other troubles which are often called by some other name.

They are sold by druggists everywhere at 50 cents per package. Address F. A. Stuart Co., Marshall, Mich., for little book on stomach diseases, sent free.

$1000 YEARLY SALARY PAYABLE WEEKLY WITH EXPENSES
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I'd leave my happy home for You: She was happy till she met you: I guess I'll have to telegraph my Baby: Mid the Green Fields of Virginia: The Girl I loved in Sunny Tennessee: Just as the Sun went Down: Just One Girl: My Honolula Lady: She was Bred in old Kentucky: My old New Hampshire Home: All I want is my Black Baby Back: Break the News to Mother: I don't like no Cheap Man: The Bowery's not the Same; On the Banks of the Wabash; I want my Lulu: Get Your Money's Worth; Hot Time in the Old Town To-night; The Honolula Dance; If they'd only fought with Razors in the War. Our new song books contain all the above songs also; many others. We will send sample song book with one piece sheet music and catalogue of 1600 songs for 10 cents. We will also send you a $1.00 Due Bill which entitles you to $1.00 worth of goods Free from our list. Song Supply Co. 369 Dearborn St. Dept J 1, Chicago.

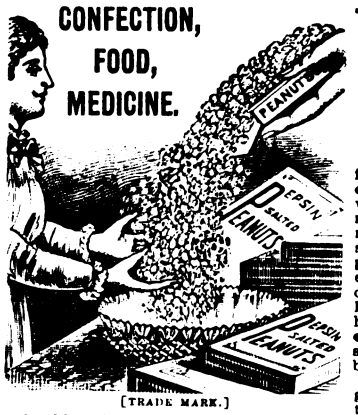
A Gold-Lined Silver Dish FREE!



To introduce our new line of **Quadruple Plated Silverware** we will for 30 days send either one of these beautiful **gold lined fluted top Quadruple Plated Silver dishes FREE** to any one sending a club of two yearly subscribers to SUNSHINE at 25c. each, or send both dishes, all charges paid, for a club of three at 25c. each. These goods are made up in the latest 1899 style, are guaranteed to wear well, as they are the best quadruple plate. The very lowest store price of either article is not less than $1.00 or $1.50, and as these beautiful articles can be used for all sorts of eatables either on dining or side tables, they make invaluable household necessities as well as beautiful ornaments. We will for a short time send either style dish free to all who send 37c. for a year's subscription or will send both dishes, all charges paid, if you remit 62c. for a two years' subscription to SUNSHINE, the great home monthly. Don't delay but send at once. We can quote you wholesale rates on our new Premium goods that will get you rich. Address SUNSHINE, Augusta, Maine.



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Two Thousand Packages Shelled Peanuts SENT FREE.

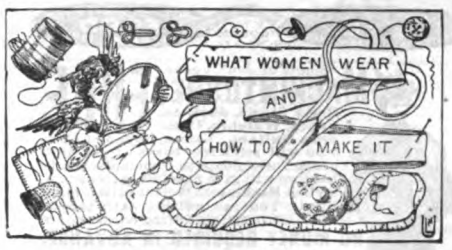
SELL 12 PACKAGES AND GET A WATCH.

The art of shelling and salting peanuts has just reached perfection. As a **confection** they are peerless, **as a food unequaled.** German scientists have spent years experimenting with Peanut flour. It is found to contain **three times the nutriment of wheat;** and whole salted peanuts, being so much more palatable than wheat, have also been found with a slight addition of **Pepsin Salt** to be a sure **cure for Dyspepsia** and other stomach, kidney and liver troubles. Yes, even persons with **Bright's Disease** or Diabetes can now be cured. It is only neccesary for old or young to eat a few of our **Pepsin Salted Peanuts** after meals to keep in perfect health—but they can also be **eaten in any quantity as a confection** without the least distress or trouble to the weakest stomach. Children delight to feast on them and they are much better than candy. They also cure Heart Burn and Insomnia.

To Form Part of the **Treat or Refreshments** at party gatherings, sociables, etc., they are indispensable, and to have them on the table as dessert is the best of form. Everyone, both old and young, now wants a few in the pocket at all times to nibble on—for with all the troublesome oils properly treated as they are in our **special process** of Curing and Roasting Peanuts, they have at last lost all terrors to weak stomachs, and are warranted not to become rancid, and to keep well in any climate.

FREE We will send two thousand packages of these Pepsin Salted Peanuts out to responsible parties who furnish proper references. You sell 12 ten-cent packages **and get a watch,** a guaranteed good timekeeper. But to first introduce them quickly we send **one package as a sample free to any one enclosing six cents** for a three months' subscription to COMFORT. You can then test them and see how many packages you want to start with. *No attention paid to first orders without trial 6c subscription.* Write at once and be among the first to get the free packages. **FREE**

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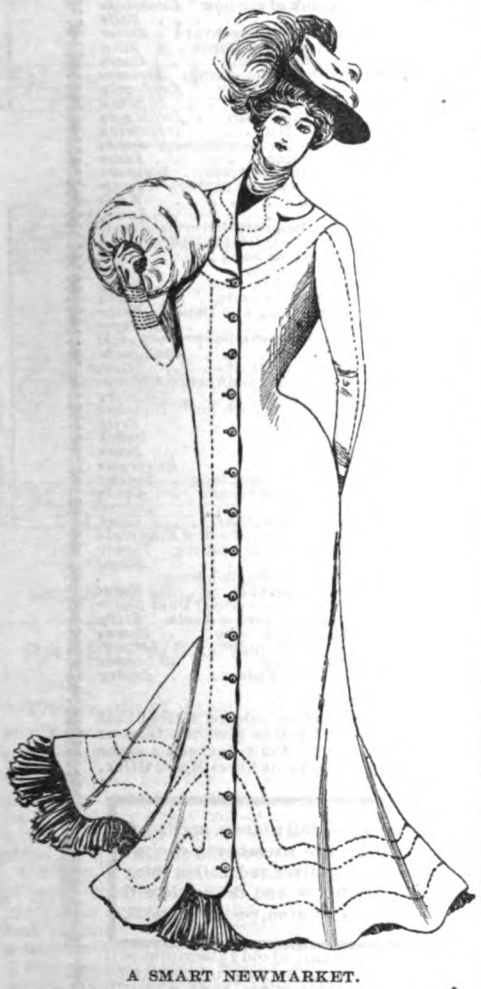
If it were not for the ingenious brains of a few clever designers I wonder what Dame Fashion would do? Probably be reduced to following one mode as in the days of our great-grandmothers and really it would be a blessing to three-fourths of womankind. The most startling new thing in the realm of dress is the eel skirt. So-called because of its fish-like shape, following as it does every line of the form as closely as possible, to within a few inches of the feet where a decided flare is arranged, with considerable train at the center of the back. Understand, there is no vestige of a ripple or fold of fullness at either side or back, indeed it is a mystery how one walks in the skirt, and, in point of fact it has made a new gait necessary, a sort of glide quite fascinating to behold, and perfectly in harmony with the snake-like appearance of the skirt.

The first skirt of this sort I saw was worn by an actress; one whose gowns are always Parisienne and whose good taste is unquestionable. The skirt was composed entirely of white sequins overlapping each other like the scales of a fish and mounted on a white silk material as elastic as rubber; at the foot it widens perceptibly into quite a frou-frou showing underneath masses of chiffon and net set on in flounces and plaitings.

Over this was worn a redingote of black guipure lace reaching to the knees at the front and ending in the train at the back. The use of pleats in the skirt is becoming more and more usual without becoming at all common. One of the newest models has the entire skirt laid in narrow side pleats in clusters of three, all around the skirt, each pleat stitched flatly as far as the knees, where they were allowed to assume their natural fullness. In spite of all that has been said against it, this style skirt of is destined to be a feature among new ideas.

An exceedingly swell gown I have in mind is made of soft violet wool, the skirt side pleated, each pleat stitched in long points to within a quarter of a yard of the foot, where the flare begins. The bodice is round, and carries out the side-pleated effect, each pleat stitched to match the skirt and apparently fastened in place by a cluster of tiny jeweled buttons. There are tiny revers of a paler shade of violet velour, opening over a guimpe of white mousseline de soie shirred so finely as to make it a question how it was accomplished. The collar is a mixture of the velour, mousseline de soie and narrow black velvet. The sleeves are remarkably dainty, the only trimming being of course at the hand. The sleeve proper ends abruptly within four inches of the wrist, and is finished with a small, pointed cuff of velour. From under this comes a snug sleeve of the shirred white stuff with tiny frills about the hand edged with black velvet.

The shops are filled with all sorts of wonderful new things in the way of outer garments, most of which are, however, regulated to carriage wear because of their unusual elaborateness. The raglan is an especially graceful garment and has no fitting seam whatever except a graceful curve under the arm. The most expensive of these are built of fur, with



A SMART NEWMARKET.

huge revers, collar and cuffs, and are elaborately decorated with handsome buttons. A fur hat is the usual accessory. Not the fur hat of old, but the jauntiest thing in the world, either a large, draped toque, or a dainty poke, enhanced with trimmings of flowers, lace, or plumage just like any other hat. It goes without saying that any girl of commonplace beauty would be transformed into a queen in such a rig. Then there are raglans of cloth; beautiful shades of palest gray and biscuit in Meltons and Kerseys, some with tailor-stitched finishings (and these are the most possible for street wear), while the more elegant ones have decorations of velvet, lace, or fur as the case may be.

From the raglan to the newmarket is only a step, and this latter garment is now very much favored. In the sketch is shown a new model built of slate gray Melton, fitting easily at the back, and loosely at the front. The shawl collar is trimmed with a band of the cloth stitched as is the rest of the coat.



AN ODD EFFECT.

A cute little coat adapted to smart wear, is displayed here also. It is made of black velvet with no back seams, and is set off by the odd collar of white broadcloth (the hip pieces and cuffs matching), stitched with white silk. The rolling collar has a facing of ermine.

A word about housegowns would probably not be amiss just now. I saw such a sweet, simple thing which might be copied in any material or color without being expensive. The material was dead white mohair, very silky and fine. The narrow skirt had an attached flounce headed with a thick cord of the material. This was worn in drop-skirt fashion over a petticoat of pale violet silk which did service for several gowns made in that way. The round bodice was in Spencer fashion brought with a very slight fullness into a crushed belt of white taffeta fastened simply at the front by a small rosette. A tiny guimpe of lace showed at the throat with the stock of the same, wired to stand up properly, and bound at the top with black velvet. The army sleeves were set off by a tiny drooping cuff of lace with the velvet binding.

I might, with profit, tell you how a girl I know is fixing over an old plaid dress, the material of which was good, but the design entirely out of date. The skirt which was plain, and much fuller than is worn now, was cut over after a sheath model and cut off just below the knees, where a circular flounce of plain material of the color predominating in the plaid was put on. The old plaid waist was used as a foundation, for warmth as much as anything, and had a smart little vest of white broadcloth set on, overlapped by crossed bands of narrow black velvet ribbon, the pointed ends fastened by tiny steel ornaments. A short Eton of the plain stuff was worn over this, the sleeves small and plain and long over the hand. It had a tiny coat collar and revers and, with its rows of even stitching, had a genuine tailorfied air. With it was worn a small soft toque of velvet to match, with an edging of fur and a quill at the side.



A BLACK VELVET COAT.

Such a smart ball frock as has just been finished, and before it was packed away in its swathings of tissue paper, I was allowed a peep at its daintiness. All white, a dead white, too, unrelieved by so much as a touch of color. The foundation was dead white satin. The skirt very sheath-like and clinging, with decided frou-frou at the feet; over this a soft fall of creamy white chiffon, accordion plaited; and over all this the outside skirt of white Brussels net laid in fine perpendicular tucks, an enormous amount of stuff employed in its makeup. On the satin underskirt was set flounce after flounce of pleated net and chiffon, so that at every step of the wearer billows of frothy white could be seen. The tiny bodice was of the tucked net over thin stuffs like the skirt and was cut from shoulder to shoulder, with a flat decoration of beautiful lace on its edge, the pattern brought out in heavy white cord. Over the shoulders are twisted ribbons of white velvet while this same velvet is made into rose-like rosettes in a festoon beginning at the left shoulder, crossing the bust to the waist where a twist of velvet finishes it. It is all very simple but is very deceptive as to its real cost. It could be successfully copied in black, with the velvet trimmings of any color desired.

Women who suffer with ailments peculiar to their sex, from stooping shoulders, weak back and general ill-health or lack of strength and vitality, will be interested in the advertisement of "The Natural Body Brace in another column. Husbands and friends of such women will be interested in it also. The company's high standing and pleasing business methods are vouched for by the leading banks throughout the country and by many thousands of customers. Satisfaction is guaranteed by the fact that the full purchase price is refunded to anyone not pleased after 30 days' trial. The Brace is comfortable and invigorating. It brings light step, graceful figure, and good health. It enables weakly women to walk, work, ride a wheel or play tennis or golf, with ease and pleasure. It is free from all the objectionable features of other supports and treatments. It does away with pessaries. We suggest that you read the advertisement and write at once for free book and full particulars.

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EASILY EARNED BY LADIES, GIRLS and BOYS taking 3 orders per day for each of our Brands of Soaps, Perfumes, etc. Particulars & Catalog of premiums, Bicycles, Watches, Capes, etc., sent free. F. Parker, 306 Clinton St., Chicago.

A DUCK ROAST.



MRS. Lancaster wanted a "Duck Roast" and so she told her butcher one morning. He affably agreed to furnish it by three o'clock, but all the time he was making the promise he kept thinking, "What in the name of time is a 'Duck Roast?'"

He had no idea, but he went to all the down town meat markets; to all the restaurants; and to all the hotels, but in vain. No one had even heard of a "Duck Roast." "Well," quoth Butcher May, "Mrs. Lancaster *has* heard of one, and she is one of my best customers and she must have it."

He sat down and thought and thought and thought again and to some purpose too, for springing up, he cut a large loin of beef, (she had told him this much, that it was a beef roast), took out the bone and by dint of cutting, shaping, using skewers and by tying, he made a very good imitation of a duck. Being well satisfied with his progress, he then took a knuckle bone from a mutton and painted it in imitation of a duck's head and neck, and fastened it in place securely; then standing off and viewing it critically, he chuckled "Well, Mrs. Lancaster will have her 'Duck Roast,' and in time, too."

He delivered it personally, explaining to her how to garnish it after it was roasted. Mrs. Lancaster was delighted and Butcher May has done a thriving business in "Duck Roasts" as well as in other meats since. So much for ingenuity.

Sixty per cent. of wood may be converted into liquid.

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Embroidery silk will cost you a lot of money bought at the store. We have a great jobbing-house lot of rich silk bought at wholesale. No high retail price with a lot of middle profits; but we get actual cost price. We want to give the whole benefit to our lady readers. We have prepared a lot of assorted packages containing a liberal supply of bright, rich, new silk in a variety of tones and shades, which would cost a heap of money bought at the stores. We will send our illustrated bargain list and full assorted, large sized silk package for the ridiculously low price of ten cents; or, three packages for twenty cents. Write to-day before the rush. S. W. LANE & Co., Augusta, Maine.

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All Wool Material



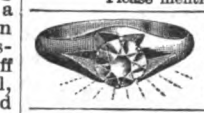
Tailor Made Suit $5.98

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SEND NO MONEY but send this adv. and we'll send Free a large sample of the cloth and our Big Catalog of other Suits, Jackets, Capes and Skirts, or send us $1.00, with color desired, give bust and waist measure, length of skirt down front from skirt band to bottom and we'll express the suit to you C.O.D., subject to examination; when it arrives examine it carefully, try it on, see that it fits perfect, then pay the express agent the balance ($4.98 and expressage). Send today quick for free sample and catalog or suit.

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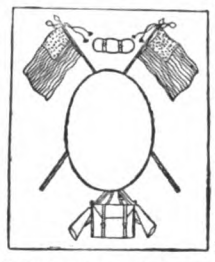
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1 design for medicine glass cover, with dial, 3x3 in.
1 border design of bow-knots, 1⅛ in. wide.
1 Border design for flannel embroidery, 1 in. wide.
1 Empire design for picture frame, 6x6⅛ inches.
1 design for book mark, 3¼x3¼ inches.
1 design for tobacco pouch.
1 Border and corner design, Oriental, for table cover or lambrequein, etc., 7x7 inches.
1 design for lamp shade, Butterfly.
1 design, Tiger lily, 6⅛x10 inches.
1 Scallop border for flannel work, ¾ in. wide.
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1900 has many proud distinctions over its sister years. Among them is the fact that it can be expressed in fewer Roman numerals than any year of the last hundred. M. C. M. it reads. For the first time the Roman numerals have the advantage of brevity.

The American nation has one marked race peculiarity. It really can't live up to the idea of a hero. In fact when it makes popular heroes of the men who have done great deeds it becomes so hysterical and exclamatory that the reaction is inevitable. It has followed in every case of hero worship. Admiral Dewey took the matter too seriously when a noisy storm of protest arose on his transference of his gift house to his wife. We certainly can not criticise the French for their fickle ways when we give such an exhibition. Back of all the noise is the sober sense of the nation that is not noisy with praise or hysterical with blame. That element has supported the Admiral.

New Year resolutions seem part of a past system. The restless modern is not much given to self examination. He does not search his own soul for lapses in thought or his actions for failures in word or deed. Consequently he has little use for celebrating the New Year by any reform resolutions. He prefers to make vague general promises of improvement and to ignore special instances. Washington's Rules for conduct show the searching self criticism of an earlier generation. We of these later days don't promise much to ourselves and so are spared any feeling of condemnation by failure. New Year resolutions certainly must be good resolutions but the modern unregenerate takes few of such passing contracts. We are satisfied to allow the place nameless to ears polite to keep the pavement it acquired during the years when human nature was more morbidly conscientious.

We have "fin-de-siecle'ed" so much that we have worn out the idea before the fact arrived. It has come at last 1900. The year's end always makes a momentary pause even in the rush and sweep of modern life. We have a moment of "hind sight" and another moment of "fore sight" and then the present with its insistent, persistent clamor shuts out the past and leaves no moment of speculation as to the future. When the end of the year and the end of the century come together it cannot be lightly passed. The changes that the century has wrought make even the most careless thought-ful. Pages could hardly outline the political, social and scientific development of the century. The greatest political change has been the death of absolute rule and the growth of representative government. Even the least optimistic person must feel that the world has grown better. The privilege of witnessing the close of a century comes but once in a lifetime and to but few people. The New Year issues on the Twentieth Century. Hail and farewell!

The Department of Labor has recently published a report containing a list of 1300 women's clubs. The names furnish an interesting study and some throw light upon the object of the club. In other cases the names are veritable puzzles. Five languages have been searched for appellations for the clubs—English, American, Indian, Latin, French and Greek. Fbilitscipom may seem an imposing name but one has an awestruck feeling when he realizes that the fearful and wonderful combination means philosophy, literature, science, music and art. Certainly no "pent up Utica" restrains the powers of that club. Among the peculiar names are Olla Podrida, Tekeosnoon, Old Maids Social Club, La Coterie, the U & I Club, Emitte Lucem Tuam, Ossoli, Wixson, Hypatia, and Igdrasil. Over the Tea Cups is a favorite name and the glories of Sorosis repeat themselves even to the wilds of Skowhegan. The Sphinx and the Entre Nous convey a suggestion of secrecy that ill accords with the popular conception of women's weak point. One club evidently gave up the task of searching for a cognomen and indicated their frame of mind by calling their club the "What's In a Name" Club. At least half of the thirteen hundred names depart from the beaten track of the "Woman's Club of Blankville" and ransack five languages for significant titles. The purposes and papers of these clubs seem serious and learned enough to dismay any really frivolous person who may have associated tea, tattle and tatting with any gathering of women. But the inclinations to coquette with the muses in a distinctly feminine fashion is shown in the names.

The science of electricity is, comparatively speaking, in its infancy. It has opened a new field of work and the positions calling for expert labor are highly paid. It is estimated that at least fifty women in the United States have taken courses in electricity and a fair proportion of women are earning a good livelihood, either as practical electricians or as lecturers or teachers of the subject. In the manufacture of the tiny filament used in electric light bulbs, women are conceded to be the best workers. They have a lightness and deftness of touch that fits them for the work. Hundreds of women are employed in these factories. The field for women in the lines of electricity requiring expert knowledge is a broad one. In proportion to the numbers who have made a special study of the science the per cent. of actual business success is very high. In fact the results show that it is a more promising field than law, theology or even medicine. One of the five examiners in the electrical department of the patent office is a woman. The largest number of inventions by women are in the line of medical electricity. Some of the physicians who have made the greatest success of electrical treatment are women. The field is certainly widening, the few who have entered it have won more than average success. There is a fascination in the study, a practical and immediate financial return for expert knowledge and opportunity to pursue the study at Universities and technical schools. It is far more practical than many of the fields which women are striving to enter. All in all, the woman in search of a vocation may fare worse than to turn her attention to this wonderful science.

Queen Victoria has presented 100,000 pounds of chocolate to her soldiers in South Africa. This fact has been the cause of much merriment especially to the French newspaper people. There is an historical significance in the act that is lost to the average observer. It shows the wide gulf between the position of an English sovereign to-day and the time when the King led his troops to battle while his crown trembled in the balance. Elizabeth, the Virgin Queen, rode before her army who were mustered to repel the attack of the Spanish. She exhorted them to fight and cried, "I have the heart of a King and of a King of England, too, and think foul scorn that Parma or Spain or any prince of Europe should dare to invade the borders of my realm." George II. was the last English king who personally led his troops in battle. In the War of the Austrian Succession or King George's War, as it was called in this country, he led the English at the great battle of Dettingen. Here he dismounted from his horse and waving his sword cried: "Come boys, now behave like men and the French will soon run." Those times and that spirit seem far separated from modern ways. The spirit is really the same, however, as the one that prompts the English Queen to make her gift of chocolate. It is the substance rather than the spirit of the gift that awakens mirth. It would seem that Queen Victoria might be familiar with a scene in a modern play where a fugitive soldier takes refuge in a house and is found eagerly devouring chocolate creams. He declares that they are the best campaign ration for a soldier as chocolate will support life longer than any other food. Whether it be philosophy or philanthropy the soldiers have their chocolate and the public has had its fun.

There are few topics that furnish a wider field for theory than does the topic of the nutritive value of foods. After centuries of medical investigation we are not yet sure whether man flourishes best on a meat or a vegetable diet, whether coffee, tea, tobacco or alcoholic beverages are really harmful or just what elements and what proportions are most conducive to perfect health. We have a scientific assertion to one effect from some authority only to find it contradicted by another. Average humanity goes calmly, placidly on eating everything that comes in its way without the slightest regard to "what's in it." Nature seems to have fitted man out with the possibility of adapting himself to everything in the food line except the want of it. The latest turn that discussion has taken is not the theory of "what to eat" but the practice of not eating at all. The reform began first by the strenuous advocacy of the practice of going without breakfast. We were ill because we ate too much, said these reformers. Breakfast was accordingly stricken from the list. The excitement over a breakfastless condition of existence lapsed when suddenly some of the city papers commenced a protest against the lunch habit. Lunch was an unnecessary evil, the system did not require the food and it took much valuable time. People would be healthier and richer if they omitted the midday lunch. Then came the attack on the dinner at six o'clock. We can imagine the consternation of an earnest seeker after truth and health who endeavored to follow the advice of all these people until he found himself breakfastless, dinnerless and supperless. His only hope lies in the adoption of some of the concentrated foods. Science is determined to do away with eating as an function and the food of the future will contain all the necessary elements to nourish the human mechanism but it will take the form of pellets or tablets. One of these may be quickly swallowed and the machine will have been fed so it can run. Eating as a function will entirely disappear. No more shall we hear of the "festive board" or of after dinner speakers. No one can be inspired to eloquence merely by bolting a tablet. The labor of the world will be lessened more than half. No dishes to wash, no marketing to do, the year's food supply can be purchased in a moment and the tablets dealt out to each person. The advocates of concentrated food are quite as scientific as the advocates of no food at all. Average humanity will doubtless continue to "eat to live," the few will still "live to eat," and the vegetarian, the fruit-and-nut diet people and the people who don't believe in any diet at all will still argue. It is doubtless well to direct popular attention to the topic, but the scientific side is yet to be solved and the "theories" only furnish fresh opportunity to people who cultivate fads.

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101	Ancients Abroad, March—Two Step	Cook
247	Artist's Life Waltzes	Strauss
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227	Beautiful Blue Danube Waltzes	Strauss
65	Bells of Corneville. Potpourri	Elson
213	Black Hawk Waltzes	Welsh
221	Bluebird Echo Polka	Morrison
199	Boston Commandery March	Carter
109	Bridal March from Lohengrin	Wagner
229	Bryan and Sewall March	Noles
133	Cadences and Scales in all Keys	Czerny
1	Catherine Waltzes	Stroh
237	Cherokee Roses Waltz. 4 hands	Bohr
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2	Annie's Love. Duet for Sop. and Ten.	Winter
27	Ave Maria, From Cavalleria Rusticana	Mascagni
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134	Beautiful Moonlight. Duet	Glover
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226	Blue Eyes	Elson
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184	I Can't Forget the Happy Past	Skelly
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110	My Little Lost Irene	Danks
170	My Old Kentucky Home	Foster
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100	Picture of My Mother, The	Skelly
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80	See Those Living Pictures	Guth
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186	Whistling Wife, The. Comic	Randall
212	Why am I ever Watching	deLasside
218	Why do Summer Roses Fade	Barker

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PADEREWSKI'S HAND SHAKE.

The return of Ignace Paderewski for a season's tour in America makes everything told of the great pianist of double interest. COMFORT remembers hearing a well-known musical critic telling of meeting him at a dinner given in one of our great centers; and on being asked what impressed him most about the artist, replied it was his handshake.

"Why," said he, "to shake hands with him is an experience one never forgets, I don't mean on account of the distinguished honor, but because of the tremendous impression of actual power one gets. I can't remember that I ever shook hands with a man having such a grip. You feel as if your hand were in a double-levered press and it will bring tears to your eyes.

"While we were talking over the success of the evening a reporter came in and Paderewski, in the height of an enthusiastic burst, seized his hand from above in a quick, nervous grasp like the spring of a trap. As he poured into the journalist's ear a few words of excited thanks for something he had written he proceeded to turn on the pressure.

"The long, white slender fingers were like the lips of a vise while through them shot a pressure only to be likened to the charging of a wire with electricity of many meters force and rushing down into his finger tips. Thus he cordially shook the crushed and limp hand of the writer, who stood unconsciously writhing in pain, while the player turned on alternating currents by way of emphasizing his rapidly articulated words.

"Why, his hands are as muscular as a prize-fighter's. He shakes hands with the same nerve and force as he plays any of his musical gems. There is nervous force, tenacity, energy and grip in him if his handshake is anything to be guided by."

The long winter evenings are with us once more and again the piano and organ are doing their share of the work in entertaining. Don't bore your friends and neighbors with the worn and hackneyed pieces which our grandfathers enjoyed, but play and sing the latest and best compositions. The place to get the latest, best and most popular is through the wonderful music offer COMFORT makes every reader on another page. Turn to it now while you think of it.

The Passing of the Coon Song.

As has often been pointed out in the musical department of COMFORT, the conditions and environments often cause an epoch of music and songs of a distinct character, be it gloomy or gay. The civil war was the greatest producer of sentimental music we have ever had in America, and it was a lack of inspiration in the musical line that caused many people to consider the late Spanish war merely one of commercial interest and not a sentimental matter. In England there is to-day an outburst of patriotic music caused by the Boer war, which has scarcely ever been equalled in history.

This thought is caused by the wave of popularity which has existed since the introduction of "coon" songs in America. These old darky songs and lullabys were first made really popular by that gifted actress, May Irwin, whose instant and continued success in a white-faced portrayal and imitation of the lusty, healthy darkey wench has done more to make this style music popular than anything else. Of late we have had a surfeit of coon song and what is called "rag time" music. All being either negro melody or imitations of it, generally in two-step time. But after a while too much sweet will cloy and it is evident that the coon song has had its day. From the day when every music store window held nothing but cartoon music pages of cake walks and negro dudes, we are coming to a line of more dignified and artistic music.

The new sentimental songs written more in accord with our old ideas of merit and sentiment are coming back and the day of the coon and the cake is slowly and surely drawing to a close. Popular as this style music has been it is doubtful if any of it will be long remembered



CONDUCTED BY EVERETT G. WHEELMAN.

THERE seems to be no end to the inventions by which the bicycle is to be made to serve Uncle Sam—from its use as a postal carrier up to its utility in war. The latest idea comes from a Yankee inventor and is nothing less than a huge fighting machine, the picture of which is shown on this page. It is, in fact nothing more nor less than a gigantic military automobile—a fort on wheels, big enough to run right over the enemy's entrenchments, and occupied by a force of soldiers sufficiently large to be termed a garrison.

The wheels of this automobile fortress are to be fifty feet in diameter, provided with pneumatic tires to enable it to run more easily over hostile earthworks, and the body of the vehicle is clad in steel armor, impenetrable to rifle bullets or cannon shot. Through suitable windows, or portholes, if they may be so termed, project rapid-fire guns—one-pounders and six-pounders, with perhaps a couple of Colt "automatics" to throw a continuous rain of small bullets. Meanwhile through smaller openings, the soldiers are able to direct a destructive fire upon the foe with Krag-Jorgensen rifles.

One advantage of this new war machine is that it travels so fast as easily to overtake the enemy. Of course they may attempt to run away, but what will be the use when they can so readily be caught up with? Besides, a traveling fort—a contrivance appalling in its very novelty—is likely to paralyze them with terror. It should be explained that the giant automobile may be run either by gasoline or electricity.

Another point worth mentioning is that machines of this description may be built in this country and forwarded in sections to be put together and sent into the field. One may easily imagine half a dozen of them at the seat of war operating together in a battle with the enemy, rushing upon their entrenchments, over-running them, crushing the fugitives beneath the huge wheels, and demolishing regiment after regiment with storms of projectiles discharged from above. The demoralizing effect likely to be produced is easily imagined.

Each of these military automobiles is provided with a sort of apparatus in front which somewhat resembles in shape the cowcatcher of a locomotive engine. It is armed with bayonet-like knives, and in action it will serve to scoop up and cut in pieces thousands of fighting men. On top of the perambulating fortress is an armored casemate, cylindrical in form, which provides a safe shelter for eight or ten riflemen.

"If you intend cycling through the winter months, it is well to have your spokes thoroughly examined," says a veteran. "Sometimes the fitting of the heads through the steel rim is loosened; water enters and the tires get damp and rot sets in. A little touch of enamel about the spoke heads would be serviceable in resisting wet. Tires rarely wear out; they succumb to rot. From painful experience I have found that if damp gets in between rubber and canvass they will not dry in a tight, inflated tire."

A new brake for a bicycle which will be seen next spring has a rod connected with the saddle, and this rod has at the other end the usual rubber skid. The saddle works on a lever, and when the rider wishes to apply the brake he slightly leans back and down goes the brake on the back tire. Happily the number of brakeless riders is decreasing. Men are getting a better appreciation of the value of their necks. Still, there are riders who do not fancy brakes, relying on their back pedalling. Should they be going down a steep incline and find they are not strong enough in back pedalling to keep absolute control, let them slip one hand under the back of their saddle and grip it tight. The power of resistance is vastly increased.

The front forks are subjected to a severe test in uphill riding. It is at this point that the greatest number of breakages occur. Indeed, in the last two seasons, since cheaper bicycles have come so much in general use, bicycle repairers find that about one-fifth of their work comes from this source, the smash occurring mostly at the crown. As a bicycle is rendered useless by such an occurrence wheelmen should make sure that the forks are strengthened at the crown. In the cheaper grades of machines this important point is too often neglected, it is said.

Two items are necessary to prevent side slipping—a well inflated tire and even pedalling. It should be noticed that tandem tires, in particular, require to be pumped commensurate with the extra weight they have to carry. A tire that is well inflated is a tire which presents less surface at the point of contact with the ground, and, as is readily understood, has a much firmer grip on the road.

Many wheelmen take their rides during the summer months as a sort of constitutional, because wheeling gives them the exercise that keeps them in good health. But with the approach of winter, damp weather and muddy roads, the "constitutional" is abandoned and the bicycle stowed away. Why should not these riders who do not care to brave miry roads and yet want cycling exercise, adopt what are known as home trainers? In England home trainers are unknown, but in this country they are common. The appliance is simple. There are two rollers on which rests the rear tire, and these rollers communicate with a forward roller, on which rests the front wheel. You cycle on these rollers—you pedal an immense distance but do not advance one inch. It takes a little practice to get into the way of the home trainer, but of its usefulness there is no doubt. In a contest on home trainers in a San Francisco Athletic Club each rider had a flying start, and the winner covered the mile in forty-eight seconds. This was accomplished by the absence of air resistance.

An incident in bicycle stealing is recounted by "The Irish Cyclist." A rider named Smith left his bicycle outside a shop. He emerged just in time to see a man named Munro riding away with it. He took the machine nearest to go in pursuit, and this was a tandem. One of the riders saw Smith take it and seizing another man's wheel, a single, went after Smith. The owner of the last mentioned wheel saw no other bicycle handy on which to give chase and jumped into a cab. Smith on the tandem finally caught Munro and the others coming up in turn got their bicycles and a satisfactory explanation. Munro was sentenced to two months. Evidently his pride was more wounded by the street episode than by the sentence, for he said that no single man on a tandem would have caught him had he not been riding in long trousers.

It looks as if the motor vehicle would follow closely in the track of the wheel. It was only a little more than ten years ago that "safeties" began to be a popular means of transportation, and ten years from now the motor carriage will no doubt have a permanent hold throughout this country.

To do away with the tool bag a Western man uses the interior of the handle bars for holding the pump, oiler, tire repair outfit, wrench, etc. The pump is telescopic, with a recess in the plunger for the repair kit. The oiler and tool kit holder are made in combination. Each grip is made with a bayonet clutch that locks the corresponding telescopic outfit. The rest of the interior of the handle bar may be used to carry a supply of carbide.



AN AUTOMOBILE FORTRESS.

It is common knowledge that the majority of police gauge the pace of a wheelman by the speed at which his pedals are revolving. Thus the rider of a low gear often suffers for the sins of his high geared brother. But it is pointed out that those who use the free wheel will be able to completely mystify the vigilant policeman. The scorcher, as soon as he sights the enemy, has simply to cease pedaling, and sail by with the seraphic smile of the accomplished free wheeler.

I frequently have requests for further information regarding inventions spoken of here, or to give addresses of inventors. These I cannot furnish. It would be better to apply to the United States Patent Office at Washington, D. C.

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WHILE there are some people who have a vague idea that coins issued 100 or 1000 years ago are worth fabulous sums, yet very few know that coins issued only a few years ago are at a large premium. For instance, the silver dollars of 1803 and many of the earlier ones. The first Columbian half-dollar, issued 1892, sold for $1,000. All the half-dollars from 1879 to 1890 are at a premium, also Isabella quarters of 1893, the old issue of the quarters and half-dollars of 1853, twenty-cent pieces 1876 to 1878; five and three-cent pieces of 1877; last issue of the two-cent copper and three-cent silver pieces; first issue of the nickel cents, all gold dollars and three-dollar gold pieces; all Territorial and California coins from 1849 to 1880, and thousands of earlier American and Foreign coins, Canadian especially. There is also a premium on some coins with **MINT MARKS O, S, C, D or CC;** also on fractional currency, colonial, continental and Confederate bills and old **POSTAGE STAMPS.** THE GLOBE reports that a coin was found in Galveston worth $5,000. THE NEW YORK JOURNAL says that a cent was plowed up at Aurora, N. Y., worth $1,200, and that Mr. Castle paid **$4,400 FOR A STAMP** found at Louisville, Ky. THE WORLD says: "Many people have become wealthy by looking after old coins and stamps." THE HOME JOURNAL says: "Coin and stamp collecting is a profitable business, as there are but few in it. The Numismatic Bank buys from Agents all over the country, and pays them big sums." Coins that are very hard to find in one section are often easily found in others. A Boston baker sold 116 coppers for $6,915, 29 silver coins for $4,713, and 4 gold coins for $1,700, and others have done nearly as well. MR. F. W. AYER sold recently a lot of stamps, collected since 1892, to Stanley Gibbons for **$250,000.** THE COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL NEWS says: "The Numismatic Bank is not only the largest institution of its kind, but as reliable, safe and trustworthy to deal with as any National Bank. The enormous business done by them is the result of **SQUARE DEALING** and liberality."—Send two stamps for our illustrated circular on rare coins and stamps, which may prove to be your stepping stone to wealth and independence. **NUMISMATIC BANK, (Dept. C, Boston, Mass.**

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PROF. KELLY Sec'y and Treas.

Art Training in the Public Schools.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



A WONDERFUL advancement has been made within recent years in the art training which is given the pupils of the public schools. The character and scope of the work which is undertaken along this line is often little understood even by parents, who are apt to think of their children's drawing lessons as a repetition of their own training a score or more of years ago; a training which consisted in reproducing the studies in a copy book and the child who learned to copy best a picture of a Greek vase, an Egyptian border, or a bit of rustic life, was pronounced possessed of the greatest amount of artistic talent.

Any one who has studied into the present methods of the schools will realize very quickly that all this has changed. The children are not taught to copy at all, but to draw forms as they see them. They are taught first of all to *see*, and then to reproduce what they see on paper. Nor is this all. They are taught the history and the schools of art, as well as its principles, although this is not given them by means of text books or even as a conscious study. It is combined with the drawing lessons and so is learned in such a manner as never to be forgotten.

The art training is begun with the first year of school, and is then in reality a sense training. The child is also taught position and manner of holding his tools, and right habits of work are instilled. Less attention is paid by the intelligent teacher to what appears upon the paper, than to the method of work. Straight lines, as straight lines, are never even mentioned, but all criticism is made along the line of truth. If a child makes a picture in which a boy is larger than a house he is asked: "Is it true that the boy is larger than the house?" The child at once sees the mistake he has made and looks more carefully next time. The early training is largely a quickening of the perceptions. As soon as the child has learned to see correctly, he will reproduce well.

Dictation lessons are given in drawing. It was only in the second grade that the drawing teacher recently said to her class: "Do you ever go skating?" Of course they did.

"Where do you go skating?" was the next question.

"On Lake Calhoun," was the answer, mentioning a lake near the school.

"Well, then," resumed the teacher, "let us suppose we are on this side of the lake skating, and there is a big tree beside us. What is there on the opposite bank?"

"Woods," the children answer.

"Yes," said the teacher, "and above the woods there is the sky. Now, which tree would look larger, the one beside us or those on the opposite bank?"

"The one beside us," was the prompt response.

"And suppose there were some boys skating on the opposite side of the lake. Which would look larger, those close to us or those across the lake?"

"Those close to us," they answered again.

"About how high would the opposite shore line come upon the boys on the opposite bank?"

This was a harder question, but some of the children knew. "As high as their heads," they answered, and they were right; not because they understood that the horizon line was level with the eye, but because they had been upon the lake and had *seen* all this.

"Now," said the teacher, "draw a picture for me of what you would see at the lake. Have a tree near, some trees and a house on the other side, and some boys skating over there."

The resulting pictures were a remarkable group. Not that they were wonderful in detail of execution, but their grasp of the subject in its relations was truly a revelation.

In those pictures in which some of the objects were out of proportion, the teacher had only to ask the familiar question, "Is it true?" when the child would mentally review the scene which was familiar to him, and would see the mistake.

Much depends upon the teacher's being able to find the child's point of view, in giving a successful lesson. She must select objects or scenes which are familiar to him, and in which he is interested. If the general lesson of the day has been about the hen, and he has learned interesting things regarding her habits, and there is a hen in the schoolroom, as there usually would be during this study, then the drawing lesson of the day should be of the hen. At another time it might be of a kitten, or a dog.

The constant referring of all points of uncertainty to the standard of truth, must in time have its influence upon the character of the child, as well as upon his drawing.

The lessons in the lower grades are all made pleasure lessons, all technical terms being eliminated. By the time the fourth grade is reached the children are taught to use their pencils in determining relative proportions and perspective, by holding the pencil at a distance from the eye. But the term perspective is seldom if ever used, even then.

In the seventh and eighth grades simple landscapes are drawn, and the children are taught where to place the horizon line. Some exercises in designing are also given. This much for the work of the various grades, which of course is a modification of the general plan, according to the age and advancement of the children dealt with.

The general outline of work for a single year for the older students deals with Egyptian ornament. The history of Egyptian art is studied, and the symbolism of the figures employed. All the work in historic ornament for the year refers to and deals with that of the Egyptians. Another year Greek art is studied; and by this means the various art periods are kept distinct in the pupil's mind, and his appreciation of what is really good in art is wonderfully strengthened.

During the child's study of historic ornament, and of the different schools of art, it is possible for the parents to be of the greatest assistance, by reading and studying with him at home along the same line, getting books from the library, and visiting art galleries.

Throughout the work the teacher seeks to strengthen and stimulate the pupil's interest, and also to bring out the educative thought which is back of every drawing lesson given. The success of the lesson, in its broadest sense, must depend in a marked degree upon the teacher. The drawing teachers go from school to school, visiting each as often as time will permit. The lessons between these visits are given by the regular teacher of the room, and as a consequence there is a wide difference in the results attained, for some teachers are enthusiastic about the drawing while others look upon it as a task, in which they have little natural interest.

It is not expected that the new system of drawing will make artists of all the children, any more than it is expected that all will be professional mathematicians, but it gives to many an added means of expression which they will enjoy all through life, and it develops the hidden talent of those who are naturally gifted.

Nor is this all. If the standard of art in our own country is raised, it will be as the result of a deeper and more intelligent appreciation of art upon the part of the general public, and nowhere can such an appreciation be better implanted than in the minds of the school children of the present day.

To this end much is being done in the schools to foster a love of art in the children, aside from the work of the drawing teachers.

In some of our leading cities there are School Art Leagues, for the furtherance of the art interests of the pupils of the schools, and in other cities where no such League exists the teachers of drawing, aided by the principals of the schools, clubs and any others who are interested, take active measures for providing the schools of the city with works of art.

Good pictures are selected and are placed upon the walls. Objects of art, such as casts, bas relief, also help to arouse the art instincts of the child. Some of these are contributed by artists and private individuals but more of them are given by the children themselves. In Minneapolis one of the local papers has a department for the children in which prizes are offered to those presenting the best papers on given topics. These prizes, during the school year, consist of pictures, not for the individual child but for the school room in which the child belongs at the time of writing. The enthusiasm which this plan has aroused among the children of the city is of the heartiest nature, and a great many pictures have been won in this way. In some schools the children earn money by putting yards to rights, selling old rubbers, bottles, or paper rags, and putting the money thus earned into a fund for their school. Entertainments are also given for the purpose of raising funds, and twice a year envelopes are circulated among the school children into which voluntary offerings for a piano and picture fund are placed.

In these and various other ways the pictures and objects of art accumulate, and while the children enjoy them, they are also educated by them and given a broader culture.

The custom of presenting class memorials has also been a means of enriching the art collections of the schools. This applies more particularly to the high schools, but is being adopted to some extent by the highest class of the grammar schools upon its graduation. Many of these memorials take the form of pictures and statuary, and are very valuable.

Only pictures of real artistic merit are placed upon the school walls and it is a matter of surprise to many to find that the children enjoy the class of pictures shown. It is a mistake to suppose that children can only appreciate juveniles or showy pictures. Among those which the children themselves have chosen are pictures by Raphael, Sir Joshua Reynolds, Millet, Corot, Van Dyke, Rosa Bonheur, Breton, Mme. Le Brun, and many others of equal rank. Children love the pictures of the Madonna; the peasant scenes of Millet; and appreciate to a greater extent than would be believed, the classic reproductions.

In some of our cities art exhibits are held at the close of the school year, in which both the work of the scholars themselves is shown, and the art treasures of the schools as well. Such an exhibition is usually made free, as its chief object is educative, and its aim is to reach as large a number as possible. The exhibit broadens and stimulates the art interest of the children who visit it, and it also wakens a spirit of co-operation upon the part of the parents. To many of them it is a revelation.

Another class to whom such an exhibit is of very real value, are the teachers from smaller towns and country schools who visit the cities in the summer. The display opens their eyes to new possibilities for their own school, and so the influence widens.

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$100. **GIVEN AWAY,** $100 will be divided (in addition to our beautiful presents) among our agents. Particulars of distribution will be sent when you answer this advertisement.



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Anyone can easily earn a Watch, Chain and Charm—ladies' or gents' style—gold plated nickel or silver Watch (not a clock called a watch), **gold finished pearl Initial Pin & a handsome 56-Piece China Tea Set,** full size, for family use. You can get these presents for selling our Bluing and Ink Powder. We mean what we say and will give this beautiful Tea Set, Watch, etc., ABSOLUTELY FREE if you will comply with the extraordinary offer we send to you. We want to introduce our Superior Bluing and Ink Powder which sells on sight, if you agree to sell only 15 packages at 10c a package, write to-day (SEND NO MONEY) and we will forward the goods prepaid. If you prefer you can order 15 of Bluing and no Ink. When sold SEND US the $1.50 and we will send you for selling the 15, one Watch-Chain & Charm & a Pearl Initial Pin with any letter you wish together with our offer of a 56-piece china Tea Set same day money is received. Any newspaper will tell you that we are reliable. **CHEMICAL SPECIALTY CO., Dept 145-40 W. 22d St., New York City.**

FREE

SILVER WATCH FREE!

These Watches are Solid Silver, Ladies' or Gents' size, and at retail would cost upwards of $8. or $10, but to introduce our Persian Petrified Perfumery we will send you this Watch Free if you take advantage of our marvelous offer. If you want one CUT THIS OUT write to us without delay. With your letter send us your name & postoffice address and we will send you on consignment, to sell for 5 cents each, 20 cases of Persian Petrified Perfumery and our offer. After you receive the beautiful Watch we shall expect you to show it to your friends and call their attention to this advertisement. The Watch is sent Free, by Registered Post, on your complying with our advertisement, and the marvelous offer which we send, and it is Fully Warranted. You will be more than satisfied. Address at once,



PERSIAN PERFUMERY CO., 19 Warren St., New York.

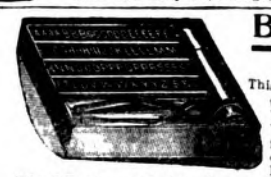
THE HAIR TELLS ALL

IF SICK send a lock of your hair, name, age, sex and 4 cents in stamps and I will diagnose your case **FREE** and tell you what will cure your ailments. Address **DR. J. C. BATDORF, Dept. 15 Grand Rapids, Mich.**

BE YOUR OWN PRINTER.

A COMPLETE PRINTING OFFICE FREE.

This is the Biggest Offer in this paper. Please Read It



This outfit saves its price many times over by reduced printers bills. Contains a font of changeable rubber type, ink pad, tweezers and holder. You can print cards, mark clothing, boxes and papers, and make it useful in many ways. We will send you **this Outfit Free of Cost, also one 10 cent package best perfume, 86 New Songs** and our **Coin and Stamp Value Guide,** which tells you what old coins and used stamps are worth and who buys them. We will also send you a $1.00 Due Bill, which entitles you to $1.00 worth of goods **absolutely Free** from our list. **This Big Offer** is made to introduce our goods to new customers. We want you to trade with us and recommend us to your friends. We know you will do it when you get this lot of goods. Write today and we will send the entire lot to you. Enclose **12c.** stamps for postage and packing. **WATSON SUPPLY CO., Dept. D. 371 DEARBORN ST., CHICAGO, ILL.**

144 PIECE DINNER SET FREE



Full size for family use beautifully decorated & most artistic design. A rare chance. You can get this handsome dinner set and one dozen fine plated tea spoons for selling our Pills. We mean what we say & will give this beautiful dinner set absolutely free if you comply with the extraordinary offer we send to every person taking advantage of this advertisement. To quickly introduce our Vegetable Pills, a sure cure for constipation, indigestion & torpid liver, if you agree to sell only **six** boxes of Pills at **25** cts. a box write to-day and we send Pills by mail, when sold send us the money & we send you one dozen plated tea spoons together with our offer of a 144 piece dinner set same day money is received. This is a liberal inducement to every lady in the land & all who received the spoons & dinner set for selling our Pills are delighted. **AMERICAN MEDICINE COMPANY, DEPT. L, 32 WEST 13th STREET, NEW YORK CITY.**

A HALF MILLION

$1.00 Charts Sent FREE With 184 Songs.

EASY MUSIC CHEAP.

Comfort's New Chart of Chords for the Piano.

A New and Quick Method of Learning to Play the Piano or Organ Without a Teacher.



You Learn in a Moment What it Takes a Teacher Months to Explain to You.

EIGHT LARGE CHARTS 5x18 INCHES EACH.

There have been many so-called easy methods and charts devised, but this is the latest and best. It is intended for those who have not the time to take lessons. A complete self-instructor, enabling any one to play the piano or organ **at sight.** This chart is the practical result of years of study by a noted American composer and musician. With this chart any one can become an expert pianist, playing accompaniments to the most difficult songs at sight, as well as dance music, marches, etc. These charts are valuable to the advanced musician as well as to the beginner, embracing nearly every major and minor chord used in music. It is the most comprehensive yet simplest chart ever published, and is endorsed by teachers and musicians everywhere.

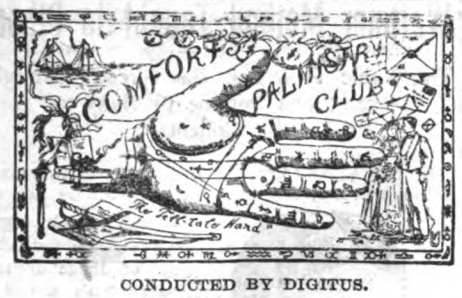
To introduce "COMFORT'S CHART" in every home, we will send **free** with each chart the "GIANT ALBUM OF SONGS," containing **184 Songs with words and music,** including the great New York hits, **Dear Old New Hampshire Hills, Ma Sugar Babe "Coon song", If Mother Were Only Here, For the Flag I Die Dear Mother, all new,** as well as all the favorite old ones, such as **Molly Bawn, Annie Laurie, I Cannot Sing The Old Songs, Blue Bells of Scotland, Battle Cry of Freedom, John Anderson, My Jo, Danube River, Larboard Watch, Bonnie Dundee, Our Flag is There, Auld Lang Syne,** etc., etc.

PRICE OF CHARTS ALONE $1.00. These charts were sold for $1.00 each, but having contracted for half a million of them we got them at a lower rate and we are going to give the **Great Album of Songs** with each set and have them sold for 25 cents. If you want to get a set free read our great offer below.

BIG FREE OFFER.

In order that you can get one of these Complete Outfits of Charts and Book of Songs to use and show to your friends and otherwise popularize them, we will send Free one complete Set of Eight large Charts, each 5x18 *inches, and the Album of* 184 *Songs to all who send only* 10 *cents for a Six Months' subscription to "Comfort." As this offer is limited you must take advantage of it quick, as it is held open for a few weeks only. You can easily sell the Outfit for* 25c. *the minute you show it.*

Address, COMFORT CHART ROOM, Augusta, Maine.



CONDUCTED BY DIGITUS.

CONDITIONS.

To have one's hands read in this department, by Digitus, one of the finest living palmists, it is necessary to observe the following conditions:

Impressions of both hands must be sent, fully postpaid and having the name, address and nom de plume of the sender enclosed in the package also.

The package must in every instance be accompanied by the names and addresses of eight new subscribers at twenty-five cents each, the whole amount, $2.00 being remitted, with the package, addressed to COMFORT PALMISTRY CLUB, Augusta, Maine.

No notice will be taken of impressions and requests for readings unless the sender has fully complied with the above conditions.

To take impressions, first hold two large pieces of blank paper over a candle or similar flame, until they are heavily coated with the smoke. Then lay these pieces down, smoke side uppermost on a pad of cotton. Now place the two hands, palms downward, one on each sheet of paper, pressing firmly and steadily down, but taking care not to move the hand. Keep them so for one minute and lift carefully, so as not to disturb the impression. Have ready some fixatif, which can be bought at a drug store or an art store or made with gum arabic and water in an atomizer. Spray this over the impressions before they are moved and allow them to dry. Then they are ready to send.

Smoked paper impressions are the best. But if it is desired to send a plaster cast, take plaster of Paris and dissolve in water to the consistency of thick cream. Pour this into a large shallow dish and when it is hardening place the hand, well-greased, palm downward, in the plaster, pressing downward. Several minutes will be required to get this impression and great care must be taken in removing the hand, not to break the plaster. Casts are exceedingly difficult to send without breaking and should be very carefully packed in a box with the name of the sender written on it. Putty is sometimes successfully used in place of plaster. A good photograph if sufficiently well taken to bring out all the lines, can also be read, although in all cases the smoked paper is the best, if properly treated with fixatif.

Bear in Mind that all the above conditions must be observed.

Also, that letters not complying with them will go into the waste-basket. Readings cannot appear for several months after impressions are sent.

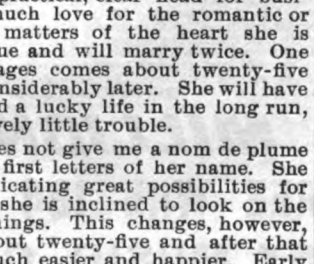
AS there are several hands to be read this month I must leave the questions to go over until another time. The first belongs to "Resigned." This shows the hand of a good business man with instincts for money getting and one who will be successful in the long run, although he may meet with some discouragements at first. His life line is a double one all the way indicating a long life with comparatively good health and strong constitution, but toward the end there are several fine lines rising from it showing that specially good luck has attended his efforts, although early in life he was bound down and had rather a hard time getting started. There was some disappointment with regard to affections at about the age of twenty or a little later, but from about twenty-five on his life is very successful and he gets what he wants. I do not think he marries until he is thirty-five or more. There seems to be no particular reason why he should take the nom de plume of "Resigned" as far as I can see. His hand indicates good fortune and success after the first twenty-five years. He is fond of the opposite sex and will be quite popular among them. He will make a good husband and father and a good citizen in every way.



"RESIGNED."

"Loyal" has a hand that shows refinement and a gentle disposition with love of music, flowers and all beautiful things. She has an open, frank, generous nature with a great deal of tact in dealing with others which makes her many friends. She has the courage of her convictions and when she thinks any course is a wise one, pursues it and will be able to carry it out to the end. Her health will be good in the main, but she will not live to be a very old woman. She will travel a good deal, especially during her last years. She has strong intellectual powers with a practical, clear head for business, but not much love for the romantic or imaginary. In matters of the heart she is steadfast and true and will marry twice. One of these marriages comes about twenty-five and the other considerably later. She will have good success and a lucky life in the long run, with comparatively little trouble.

"M. A. J." does not give me a nom de plume and so I use the first letters of her name. She has a hand indicating great possibilities for the future, but she is inclined to look on the dark side of things. This changes, however, when she is about twenty-five and after that she finds life much easier and happier. Early in life she is somewhat weak and vacillating in her ideas and has very little self-reliance or courage. This is partly the result of circumstances, however, as she was born with a naturally happy disposition. If she would cultivate a little more energy she would find that her happiness depends largely upon herself and her own will. She has been too dependent upon other people and she needs to realize that happiness comes from within and not from without. Some special good fortune will reach her about the age of thirty-five or forty which she will find of great value to her. She will marry not far from twenty-five, but I think the first marriage will not be at all satisfactory. She will marry again a dozen years later or so with much better results. There is liability of a severe illness or accident at about the age of twenty-five which must be guarded against. After that her health is good up to about sixty. I do not see that the life line goes much beyond that age. She will travel a good deal during the middle of her life. It is not possible to state in these predictions the exact month or year that a thing will happen. We can only say at about such an age. On the whole, I see a great deal of happiness and good fortune in this hand, although the subject is impatient of delay and unwilling to wait for good luck.



"LOYAL."

"America" has an excellent hand—one of the best I have seen for some time, although it shows that she has a nervous temperament which she needs to control. She is a very refined and sensitive person, fond of music and flowers, pictures and literature. She is inclined somewhat to despondency at times. She will excel in imaginative writing if she takes it up. She has a great gift for that sort of thing and either as a writer of romantic fiction or imaginative poetry she would meet with great success. This may not come all at once, but if she has perseverance enough to go ahead in spite of obstacles, she can become famous as a writer. There are several signs of this in her hand, with splendid lines on the Mount of Apollo which indicate reputation and success. There is a cross on Jupiter and a distinct Fate line rising from the wrist and going straight up. I see one marriage at about the age of twenty-five or thirty, but with her marriage is not the greatest thing in life. She has wonderful gifts and if she can develop perseverance enough to carry them through, she will make a great success of life. She will have to look out for her health, as she has been somewhat delicate in childhood. There is a crease broken into the life line which is offset by a stronger line, showing that her health will be much improved and that she will grow stronger as the years progress. The life line ends in a star which indicates celebrity at the close of her life. I should advise "America" to take up the line of historical writing. First, study the local history of some locality in her vicinity and then select her characters and go ahead.



"M. A. J."



"AMERICA."

Digitus

ANOTHER READER HAS BEEN MAKING MONEY EASILY.

I noticed in your valuable paper that one of your readers had been very successful selling Baird's Non-Alcoholic Flavoring Powders, and thought my experience would be interesting too. It is simply wonderful how much better these new fruit flavoring powders are than the liquid extracts sold in stores, when you stop to think that they cost only about half as much. You use them for cakes, custards, candies, ice cream, etc., just like the liquid. We used them ourselves and liked them so well that I wrote the manufacturers, Baird Mfg. Co., 128 Baird Bldg., Pittsburg, Pa., for samples and tried selling them to my neighbors. I only commenced a short time ago, but the powders are fast becoming celebrated around here and I have built up a steady trade from regular customers, often making over $25.00 a week. I never knew of such an easy way to make money and I would recommend anyone having a little spare time to write this firm, for they are very generous in their dealings. R. L. C.

NEW INVENTION—A $12 BATH CABINET FOR ONLY $5.00.



Our new 1902 style Square Quaker guaranteed best of all cabinets at any price. Has real door on hinges, steel frame, best materials, rubber lined, folds flat, lasts 20 years. Turkish and Vapor baths at home 3c each. Open the millions of pores, sweats poisons out of the blood, keep you clean and healthy, beautifies the complexion. Physicians recommend it for Colds, La Grippe, Rheumatism, Neuralgia, Obesity, Female Ills, all Blood, Skin, Nerve or Kidney troubles. Money refunded after 30 days use, if not as represented. Price $5.00, with heater, directions, formulas, Face Steamer $1.00 extra. Order today. Write us. Valuable book free. Agents wanted. Big wages. Good Seller. World Mfg. Co., 98 World Bldg, Cincinnati, O.

[We recommend above firm as reliable.—Editor.]



$9.00 Buys A High Arm Sewing Machine

Adapted for light or heavy work. Makes double lock stitch, has self-threading shuttle, 20 Years' Guarantee. Without any money in advance we will send to your home on 30 days FREE TRIAL your choice of our folding table cabinet sewing machines, as illustration, or our 3, 5 or 7 drawer machines, with best solid steel attachments. WE PAY FREIGHT. Buy direct and save agents and dealers' profits. Catalogue Free. Address H. SHEPHERD MFG. CO., 294 E. 22nd St., Chicago.

PARALYSIS Locomotor Ataxia conquered at last. Doctors puzzled, Specialists amazed at recovery of patients thought incurable, by DR. CHASE'S BLOOD AND NERVE FOOD. Write me about your case. Advice and proof of cures FREE. DR. CHASE, 224 N. 10th St., PHILADELPHIA, PA.

FREE CURE for ASTHMA Trial Package of three special medicines Free. DR. W. K. WALRATH, Box 505 ADAMS, N. Y.

FREE



For a little work among your friends, this elegant Double-action Revolver; has octagonal nickeled barrel, black rubber handle, and all parts finely finished; weighs 15 ounces; 32 caliber; 3-inch barrel. If you will sell for us $3.60 worth of our XXX Laundry Bluing at 10c per pkg. Don't send any money. We send you the bluing postpaid, together with our big premium list of bicycles, jewelry, dinner sets, etc. When sold send us the money and select your premium. Brockstedt Mercantile House, 806 N. Broadway, B. 5, St. Louis, Mo.

Clothing Salesmen Wanted.

$150.00 PER MONTH AND EXPENSES MADE BY ALL OUR ACTIVE MEN. WE PAY MANY FAR MORE.



WE WANT MEN IN EVERY COUNTY in the United States. If your reference is satisfactory we will start you at once. No experience necessary. No capital required. We furnish a full line of samples, stationery, etc. A tailor's-for-the-trade complete outfit ready for business. NO COMMISSION PLAN. You regulate your profits to suit yourself. No house-to-house canvass. This is not one of the many catchy advertisements for agents, but one of the very few advertisements offering a rare opportunity to secure strictly high-grade employment at BIG WAGES.

We are the LARGEST TAILORS in America. We make to measure over 300,000 suits annually. We occupy entire one of the largest business blocks in Chicago. We refer you to the Corn Exchange National Bank in Chicago, any Express or Railroad Co. in Chicago, any resident of Chicago. Before engaging with us, write to any friend in Chicago and ask them to come and see us, then write you if it is a rare opportunity to secure steady, high-class, big-paying employment. BETTER STILL—come to Chicago yourself and see us before engaging and satisfy yourself regarding every word we say. You can get steady work and big pay. Work in your own county 300 days in the year and you can't make less than $5 every day above all expenses. WE WANT TO ENGAGE YOU to take orders for our Made-to-Order-and-Measure Custom Tailoring, (Men's Suits, Pants and Overcoats). We put you in the way to take orders from almost every man in your county; a business better than a store with a $20,000.00 stock. You will have no competition.

WE ARE THE LARGEST TAILORS IN AMERICA

Of Fine Custom-Made Garments. We buy our cloth direct from the largest European and American Mills. We control the product of several Woolen Mills. We operate the most extensive and economic custom tailoring plant in existence, thus reducing the price of Suits and Overcoats made to order to $5.00 and upward; Pants from $1.50 to $5.00. We show a large line of suits at from $5.00 to $8.00. Prices so low that nearly everyone in your county will be glad to have their suits MADE TO ORDER.

WE FURNISH YOU a large, handsome leather-bound book, containing large cloth samples of our entire line of Suitings, Pantaloonings, etc., a book which COSTS US SEVERAL DOLLARS; also Fine Colored Fashion Plates, Instruction book, Tape Measure, Business Cards, Stationery, Advertising Matter, and your name and address on rubber stamp with pad complete. We also furnish you a Salesman's Net Confidential Price List. The prices are left blank under each description so you can fill in your own selling prices, arranging your profit to suit yourself. As soon as you receive your sample book and general outfit and have read our book of instructions carefully, which teaches you how to take orders, and marked in your selling price, you are ready for business and can begin taking orders from every one. At your low prices, business men, farmers and in fact every one will order their suits made. You can take several orders every day at $1.00 to $5.00 profit on every order. EVERY ONE WILL BE ASTONISHED AT YOUR LOW PRICES.

YOU REQUIRE NO MONEY. Just take the orders and send them to us, and we will make the garments within 5 days and send direct to your customers by express C. O. D., subject to examination and approval, at your selling price, and collect your full selling price, and every week we will send you a check for all your profit. You need collect no money, deliver no goods, simply go on taking orders, adding a liberal profit and we deliver the goods, collect all the money and every week promptly send you in one round check for your full profit for the week. NEARLY ALL OUR GOOD MEN GET A CHECK from us of AT LEAST $40.00 every week in the year.

THE OUTFIT IS FREE. We make no charge for the book and complete outfit, but as each outfit costs US SEVERAL DOLLARS, to protect ourselves against many who would impose on us by sending for the outfit with no intention of working, but merely out of idle curiosity, as a GUARANTEE OF GOOD FAITH on the part of EVERY APPLICANT, we require you to fill out the blank lines below, giving the names of two parties as reference, and further agreeing to pay, merely as a temporary deposit, ONE DOLLAR and express charges for the outfit, when received, If found as represented and really a sure way of making big wages. The $1.00 you agree to pay when outfit is received does not begin to pay the cost to us, but insures us you mean business. WE WILL REFUND YOUR $1.00 as soon as your orders have amounted to $25.00, Which amount you can take the first day you work.

Fill out the following lines carefully, sign your name, cut out and send to us, and the outfit will be sent you at once.

AMERICAN WOOLEN MILLS CO., West Side Enterprise Bldg., **CHICAGO, ILL.**

GENTLEMEN:—Please send me by express, C. O. D., subject to examination, your Sample Book and Complete Salesman's Outfit, as described above. I agree to examine it at the express office and if found exactly as represented and I feel I can make good big wages taking orders for you, I agree to pay the express agent, as a guarantee of good faith, and to show I mean business (merely as a temporary deposit), One Dollar and express charges, with the understanding the One Dollar is to be refunded to me as soon as my sales have amounted to $25.00. If not found as represented and I am not perfectly satisfied I shall not take the outfit or pay one cent.

..... Sign your name on above line.

..... Name of Postoffice, County and State on above line.

Your age .....

Married or single .....

Address your letters plainly to

..... On above two lines give as reference, names of two men over 21 years of age who have known you one year or longer.

..... On above line give name of your nearest express office.

AMERICAN WOOLEN MILLS CO., West Side Enterprise Bldg., **CHICAGO, ILL.**



ANY ONE CAN EASILY EARN A WATCH-CHAIN AND CHARM—LADIES' OR GENTS' STYLE—GOLD PLATED, NICKEL OR SILVER WATCH, (not a big clock) called a watch, CHAIN BRACELET with lock and key, 56 PIECE TEA SET (full size for family use), GOLD FINISHED INITIAL RING. We mean every word we say. To quickly introduce our house and goods we will give away thousands of the above presents ABSOLUTELY FREE. Send us your name and address (no money), and we will mail you, postpaid 15 beautiful stamped DOILIES, different designs, with 15 exquisitely perfumed love charms. Sell the Doilies at 10c. each and give one charm free with each. When sold send us the $1.50 and we will at once send you for selling 15, one Watch-Chain and Charm and a Ring with any letter you wish, together with our offer of a 56 piece Tea Set, etc. PARIS ART CO., B. 5 MONTCLAIR, NEW JERSEY.



SELF-SEALING PIE TIN has a crimped rim which holds both crusts firmly together and prevents the rich juices from escaping. It is so constructed that the crust will always bake crisp and brown. Sample sent postpaid on receipt of retail price, 25c. We are the largest manufacturers of Household Specialties in the U.S. AGENTS, write how to get this and others of our best selling novelties. —Outfit worth $2.00—FREE. All goods guaranteed to give satisfaction. Address Dept. X. HOUSEHOLD NOVELTY WORKS, 25 Randolph St., Chicago, Ill.

This Co. is worth a Million Dollars and is reliable.—Editor.



We are giving away Telescopes, Cameras & many other premiums, to boys and girls, for selling two doz. 18k. Rolled Gold Collar Buttons at 5c each. Send us your address and we will forward you post-paid two doz. buttons. When sold send us $1.20 and we will send you your premium. HENRY BUTTON CO., DEPT. 38, CHICAGO.



THE MAGICAL SPONGE.

THE WONDER OF THE 20th CENTURY.

For Polishing and Cleaning Windows, Signs, Mirrors, Show Cases, Gold, Silver, Nickel, also Jewelry, Copper, Brass and Tin.

For the Bath IT HAS NO EQUAL.

A Labor-Saving device entirely new and universal in demand. Will last a lifetime and costs but Twenty-five cents. Just on the market and over 500 Gross sold last month. Every family in the land wants one or more. All you do to sell them is simply show the lady of the house or the office man how it works on his window and you will depart with one less every time, but in its place a quarter.

The Magical Sponge differs from the ordinary sponge in nature, while the common sponge is of vegetable origin and found in the ocean, the Magical Sponge is a mineral production and found in the United States, dug from the ground, carefully prepared and manufactured into sponges for the Housekeeper, Merchant, Liveryman, Metal Workers, and all persons who desire to keep their homes, offices, and business places in a clean and healthy condition.

No Soap or water is needed or even used with the Magical Sponge for Cleaning Windows or any outside Metal. In the winter time it has no equal, it does not freeze, and no water being used (other than what is in the sponge) all trouble and hard work is avoided. For Cleaning Baseboards, Window Sills, Wainscoating and painted surfaces, it acts like a charm; takes all the finger marks, spots, grease and dirt away, leaving a Clean, Polished Surface.

Good men wanted all over the country to handle these goods, big inducements offered steady workers, and exclusive sale. To Agents, Salesmen, and house to house canvassers, who send us 25 cents for a 6 months' subscription, we will send one sample post paid, and make them a business proposition. Write at once. Secure your territory. Address COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

"THAT NOBLE ANIMAL, THE HORSE." YOU WANT IT.



THE GREATEST and BEST BOOK EVER WRITTEN on HORSES.

A Gold Mine of Interest and Information by Which You Save Dollars.

Prof. Oscar Gleason, the greatest horse owner, trainer and breaker that ever lived in America has at last consented to write a book on the Horse. We have made arrangement to furnish copies of this valuable work to all lovers of horses, and we call your attention to the great value of this unparalleled work which should be in every home and stable in the land. Gleason's Horse Book is a large handsomely bound book of over 400 pages, printed on pure white paper in large, clear type, bound in colored covers and richly and elegantly illustrated with 186 full plates and illustrations drawn by special artists. It is the most complete horse book ever published, produced under the direction of the United States Government Veterinary Surgeon. In this book Prof. Gleason has given to the world for the first time his wonderful methods of training and treating horses. It contains chapters on History, Education, Teaching Tricks, How to Buy, Feeding, Breeding, Breaking and Taming, How to Detect Unsoundness, Care, Complete Instructions in Proper Horse shoeing and one Invaluable Study of the Diseases and Treatment of the animal. This part alone is worth many times the value of the book and will save horse owners hundreds of dollars every year. It is a colossal compendium of facts every person ought to know who is in any way interested in horses. Nothing left out. Clear, Concise and Captivating. Order one to-day and you will never regret it; it is a whole Library on Horses in itself. Gleason's Horse Book is found in the libraries of the wealthy and has always been sold as high as $3.00 a volume until now.

SEE HOW TO GET IT. To introduce our monthly paper into homes where an interest is taken in horses we will send a copy of Prof. Gleason's Horse Book, described above, to every person who will send thirty-three cents to pay all shipping charges and for a trial six months' subscription to our paper. Great Club Premium. If you will get up a club of only two yearly subscribers to this paper at the special trial subscription price of 25 cents each we will send you the book as a free premium.

Address NATIONAL FARMER, Augusta, Maine.



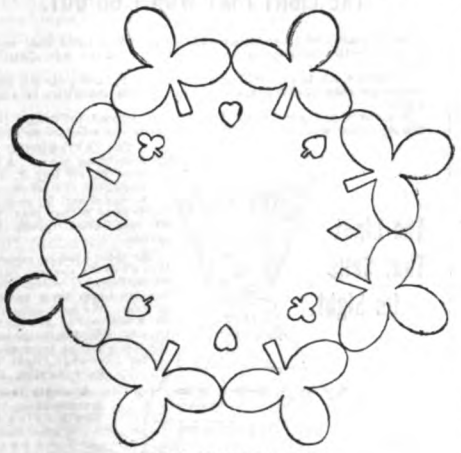
WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



THE rush for Christmas now being over, we may turn our attention to our own needs, which have been overlooked and crowded out in the grand holiday rush.

About this season of the year we find time to look over cast-off clothing with a view to remodelling. As we already have our necessary winter outfit provided, and have gotten over the holiday rush, we feel that we may take a little time for making up a fancy silk waist from soiled materials already on hand—or may make over a skirt which will be just what we need, but which will take considerable of our time, for the reason that as much work must be put into the ripping up, sponging and pressing, as in the actual making after all this has been done.

The ideas of freshening and renovation come to one only with years of experience, but when once learned the know-how remains. Velvet, when crushed can be made to rise again with the help of an open tin pan full of boiling

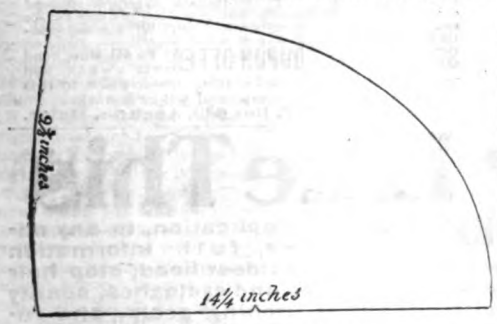


EMBROIDERED MAT.

water. Hold the wrong side over the steam, stretching it tight, and have someone else brush up the right side of the velvet with a stiff brush, brushing against the grain. This process will remove wrinkles, stiffen the crushed pile and cleanse the velvet.

White cashmere and serge may be cleaned by rubbing them with hot dry flour; brush off the flour and repeat the process if necessary. This is one of the French methods of dry cleansing.

For freshening fur, place on a table, hairy side up, and rub in handfulls of sawdust; then shake over the table, to save what sawdust shakes off. Then lay the hair side of the fur down on a pillow and beat with a switch. Continue the beating until all the sawdust has



PATTERN OF TEA-COSEY.

been removed. For white furs use white cornmeal in a similar manner. Remove grease from fur with gasoline applied with a piece of cloth.

Colored and black silks are freshened by placing upon a smooth table and rubbing, by means of a cloth, with equal parts of alcohol and warm water. Don't iron silks if it can be avoided, as the heat takes out all the life. A better way is to sponge them until quite damp and then pin them tightly down onto the carpet and so leave them until thoroughly dried. Benzine will remove paint from silk, but will leave what is called a water-mark; this, however, may be removed with French chalk.

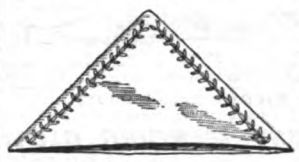
If good rubber shields are used in one's gowns, they need not be thrown away when soiled, for they will wash very well; of course the cheap ones will come out stiff, in the wash, and so are unsatisfactory; but the good ones may be washed two or three times and still be as fresh as new after each wash.



TEA-COSEY.

We give an illustration this month of a Tea-Cosey, and pattern for same. This pattern is for one quarter of the outside of the cosey, and the lining is cut exactly the same only about an inch smaller all around. Cut the outside from figured material, silk preferably, and the lining from plain silk. Line each outside portion with soft crinoline. Join the rounding edges of the lining portions, and also those of the outside, with the corresponding centers and edges even. Arrange layers of cotton batting over the wrong side of the lining, tacking it at intervals to the lining. Then slip the outside over the lining and slip-stitch them together. Tack the parts together along the seams. Trim the lower part of the cosey with a strip of plush about four inches deep and head the band with a row of cord. Sew a cord over the visible part of the seam of the outside and arrange in three loops at the center.

We have been asked for designs for small mats that are easily worked. Many beautiful designs are to be found in the shops, but nearly all are very elaborate and take much time and silk and also, in most cases, an expert needlewoman, to properly bring out the shading etc. The design we give is very simple and may be made any size desired by enlargement. The outer edge may be worked quite solid by the deep "long and short stitch," buttonholing the edge at the same time. The inner designs may be made in outline or solid, and all may be made in white, if desired. If, however, the edge is made of white silk and the hearts and diamonds are made in solid red and the clubs and spades in solid black, the effect is quite striking, and of course the mat will launder equally well, as all silks are warranted washable nowadays.



BOOK MARK.

The little three-cornered design is for a bookmark. We illustrated a similar one sometime ago, and have been asked repeatedly to show the design again. It is simply the corner of an envelope, and may be decorated according to the fancy of the maker—either with a vine or spray in water color, a conventional design in pen and ink, or a short message or motto. It is a good idea to have several of these little corners lying around on tables or desks, so that the children will get in the habit of putting one over the corner of the leaf of the book they are reading, and so grow up with the habit of keeping the corners of their books fresh and unturned. Children of a larger growth would do well to bear this in mind also.

The Century Plant in Mexico.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



UPON approaching the City of Mexico, the traveler is struck by the novel sight of great fields of huge century plants, and he naturally wonders what use the Mexicans can find for this plant that it should be so extensively grown. The explanation is, that it is from this plant that pulque is obtained; and what beer is to Germans, pulque is to Mexicans.

This plant, called *maguey* in Mexico, is not a century-growing plant, as might be inferred from the name commonly given it in the United States, its average life being about eleven years only. In its enormous leaves, often fifteen feet long, one foot wide and half a foot thick, it stores up its sap for ten or twelve years, and finally produces its flower and dies. This flowering is retarded by cutting out the bud of the plant, and it is in the reservoir thus formed at the base of the great leaves, that the sap collects.

Every morning the day's accumulation of sap is gathered up by the Indian laborers, it being said of this that while the finer grade is dipped up (evidently a tedious and oftentimes painful performance, the plant being armed at every point with large thorns), the ordinary kind is drawn up through a tube into the mouth of the laborer, whence he deposits it in a hog-skin sack he carries on his back.

The sap is sweet when first taken from the plant, and at that stage is called *agua miel* (honey water); a partial fermentation, which takes place in twenty-four hours, transforms it into *pulque*; and the fermentation continuing twenty-four hours later it has become *swill*. Many efforts have been made to discover a process whereby the fermentation may be stopped when it has reached the pulque stage, but without success so far, and this very effectually confines pulque-drinking to Mexico.

There are thirty-three varieties of the maguey growing on the elevated table-lands of Mexico, where it is native, and it is from the largest of these that pulque is obtained. Each healthy plant yields from one hundred to one hundred and fifty gallons, annually; and as the City of Mexico alone consumes fifteen hundred gallons per day, the extent to which this plant is grown may be seen. From the sap of another variety, which grows wild, the natives distil *mescal* and *sotol*, both fiery, intoxicating drinks; and from the sap of a variety which grows as far north as Santa Fe, New Mexico, the Apache Indians distil *tis-wain*, an intoxicating liquor that has caused more than one Apache outbreak. These Indians roast in hot ashes the leaves of yet another variety for food, they having, when cooked, much the nature of a stringy sweet potato.

The discovery of the pleasure-giving properties of the sap of the maguey led, so tradition has it, to the downfall of the Toltec Empire; and this tradition is as follows:

"In the year 1021 there reigned in Tula (the Toltec capital) a powerful Cacique whose name was Tepalcatzin; and residing at the court of this monarch was a nobleman, the Tzin Papantl, who was the father of a beautiful girl who bore the name of Xochitl, and who came to be known as 'The Flower of Tula.' Now it so happened that the Tzin Papantl discovered quite by accident that the sap of the maguey, when partially fermented, made a very palatable drink; and thinking to further his interest at court, he at once sent Xochitl bearing a vessel of the beverage to the Cacique.

"Tepalcatzin was delighted with the drink, but was charmed by the beauty of its bearer, and he persuaded her to remain in the palace and become Queen number-two. In the course of time Xochitl became the mother of a prince, who, through the favoritism of his father, afterward ascended the Toltec throne. This was considered by Queen number-one an usurpation of her own son's rights, and the family quarrel which followed at last resulted in the intervention of the war-like Aztecs, who overran the country and took it for themselves."



BIRDS sham death, as a matter of protection. A moorhen will lie in the hand perfectly limp and to all appearances unconscious. A beetle or spider will lie as if dead, with its legs all drawn in, thus hoping to be passed over. One reason suggested for this strange reasoning in these small animals is that cats never touch their prey unless it moves which seems to be understood by birds.

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WINES FROM APPLE TREES.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



The NOTION of converting cider into sherry, madeira, hock and various other kinds of wines of first-rate quality—not by falsification, but by proper and legitimate methods—is sufficiently novel to excite serious interest. That such a transformation is practicable will be declared shortly in an official bulletin of the Department of Agriculture, which will tell American farmers how to turn their apple orchards into vineyards without vines and their cider presses into wine presses. For some-time past the government experts have been pursuing this line of research, and their efforts have finally been crowned with success.

The whole matter depends upon certain kinds of yeasts, which have been imported expressly for the purpose from France, Italy and Spain. As is well known, the fermentation of wines is caused by the presence in the grape-juice of certain species of fungi—microscopic plants related to the common "molds." Bread yeast, which makes the dough rise, is composed of such fungi which feed upon the flour and cause it to ferment. In the same way the grape yeasts feed upon the grape-juice and bring about its fermentation, thus transforming it into wine.

Now, the fungi of the wine yeasts live ordinarily in the soil of the wine-producing districts. There are ever so many species of them, and their minute "spores," which correspond to seeds, float about in the air, thus getting upon the fruit and so into the vats in which the grape-juice has been collected. Finding thus the food they like, they multiply by billions in the fluid, and in this manner their wine-making errand is accomplished.

However, the various species differ very much in the effects which they produce upon the grape-juice. The wine will be more or less delicate in flavor, according to the kinds of yeast-fungi that gets into the raw material. Until recently this fact has not been understood, and so wine-production hitherto has been more or less of a gamble, the most skillful vineyardist being unable to tell in advance how a given batch of his output would turn out.

But now it is different. Science, having managed to identify the good yeast-plants, has succeeded in separating them out and propagating them artificially on gelatine in glass tubes. In this shape—the tubes tightly corked with wads of cotton to prevent the intrusion of other microbes—they have been brought from Europe to the United States, and it is a matter of no difficulty to breed unlimited quantities of them from this stock.

Enclosed in the plugged tube, a colony of the precious fungi forms a whitish patch on the surface of the semi-fluid gelatine inside. It is only with the aid of a powerful microscope that the little plants can be distinguished as individuals. When wanted for business, a few of them are introduced into a vat of newly-collected grape-juice, and immediately they begin to multiply in such numbers as actually to crowd out all other species of yeasts. Consequently the fermentation goes ahead ideally, and the resulting wine is of a definite flavor, "bouquet," sweetness, and richness in alcohol, all of these qualities being determined in advance.

Now, the spontaneous fermentation of apple-juice is due, similarly, to microscopic fungi which are carried by air, deposited upon the fruit, and so transferred to the cider vats. Here again ever so many species are concerned, and some are much less beneficial than others. Even under the microscope, they look much alike, and yet the effects they produce upon the apple-juice in which they propagate are widely different. This, indeed, explains the notable variations in the quality of cider, such as every one has noticed. According to the sort of yeast that predominates in the apple-juice, the cider will be more or less rich in alcohol, more or less sweet, more or less delicate as to flavor, and possessed of more or less keeping quality.

So it will be seen that whatever is true of grape-juice in this regard is true also of apple-juice, and the only way to be sure of getting first-rate cider every time is to control the yeast fungi which develop in it. This can be done perfectly well, and will be accomplished as soon as farmers can be persuaded to take the trouble to keep on hand a little bottle of the proper microbes, which before long will be on the market, just as bacteria for ripening cream are already sold to dairymen.

Some of the beneficent cider-making fungi have already been identified and propagated. Just as in the case of the grape-juice, a few of them, introduced into the vat of fresh apple-juice, quickly established for themselves a monopoly there, preventing any "wild" species from developing. The cider, not affording nourishment to any trouble-making microbes, clears rapidly, is rich in alcohol, and acquires the desired flavor and bouquet. In the not-distant future, as a result of intelligent effect on the part of apple-growers, we shall have in this country special brands of cider of an excellence hitherto undreamed of.

However, this is not all, by any means. It remains to speak of the conversion of cider into wines, which is a matter of far more importance commercially. And, in discussing this point, it must be realized at the start that grape-juice is only a raw material to which the fungi contribute the qualities of flavor, bouquet, etc., which give it value. Such being the case, it is not so very astonishing to find that apple-juice will do just about as well as grape-juice to make fine wines out of. In fact, it is discovered that, in order to produce excellent sherry, it is necessary merely to add to apple-juice the proper yeast, obtained originally from the Xeres district in Spain. The same way with Madeira, with port, and so on.

This is what the experts of the Department of Agriculture have been working on recently, and the results they have obtained are really wonderful. One of them showed to the writer yesterday a series of large bottles, from which in succession he poured hock, madeira, sherry, port, and three or four other wines—all of them made from the same batch of apple-juice, but resembling each other in not the slightest degree, while it would hardly have been possible for an experienced wine-taster to distinguish them from the articles which they counterfeited.

The United States, of course, is the great apple-producing country, and this new discovery opens out a prospect for an immense and very profitable industry for American farmers. They will become wine-makers, without planting a vine, and will supply the markets of both the Old World and the new with Yankee "vintages" comparable to the best European. Very little skill will be required in the business—the yeast-plants, bought in bottles, will attend to that—and the apple wines will have the additional advantage of superior purity, inasmuch as they will be so cheap that it will not pay to adulterate them.

In conclusion, it may be of interest to state that the fungi in the grape-juice or apple-juice feed upon the sugar which the stuff contains. This sugar they transform into alcohol and carbonic acid gas. By the introduction of the requisite species of microbes, apple-juice is converted into champagne, to which the requisite "fizz" is given by forcing an extra supply of carbonic gas into it. It is mighty good champagne, too—a real wine, and not to be confused for a moment with the "champagne cider" so long familiar.

WHERE IRON IS SCARCE.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



We are told by historians that the overthrow of the Aztec empire by Cortez was due largely to the fact that the Aztecs were not possessed of either iron or steel weapons with which to combat the Spaniards, iron being then unknown in Mexico.

This is true, no doubt, and iron is still a scarce commodity in Mexico, so scarce that a pilfering Mexican will walk ten miles to steal a handful of railroad spikes, and the losses of Mexican railroads by thefts of this kind amount to an important sum every year. Spikes, bolts, tools, in fact any article of iron that is not spiked down, locked up, or too heavy to be carried away, will quickly disappear if left unguarded. These losses have been reduced to a minimum, however, the railroads having learned by sad experience how to protect themselves, and if the traveler in Mexico will observe closely, he will note that the trainmen carefully remove the coupling links and pins from cars that are left on side-tracks, and that the point of every bolt in the track is battered so that the tap cannot be removed with the fingers.

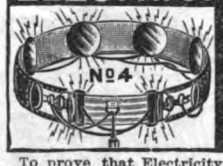
On one occasion, so the railroaders relate, the men composing a freight-train crew were all called to the forward end of their train; in their haste, they neglected to lock their caboose, and when they returned to it, after a short absence they found that their stove, in which they had left a roaring fire, had been stolen.

Again, it is said that the engineer and fireman of a train that was standing on a lonely side-track awaiting the coming of another train, decided to avail themselves of the opportunity for a nap. They slept not longer than thirty minutes, but when they awoke, they found it impossible to move their engine, thieves having stolen vital parts of the machinery.

Another story is, that a pile-driver met with an accident, and its hammer which weighed a ton or more falling to the ground, was left where it had fallen until a crane could be brought to return it to its place. A Mexican spied it lying there, a prize of untold value in his eyes, and he called in a party of his friends to assist him in carrying it off.

The hammer was heavy, they well knew, but give a Mexican a burro (donkey) and unlimited time, both of which are usually plentiful in Mexico, and he will dare to undertake almost anything; therefore a burro became one of the party that stole noiselessly that night along the railroad track. Arriving at the hammer, two timbers taken from a bridge near-by were placed, one end on the ground, the other on the burro's back, making an incline up which the men began sliding their prize. Up, up it went, inch by inch until it was almost on the burro's back, when, with a groan, the patient little animal gave way and sank to the ground, the ponderous hammer falling on him and crushing out his life.

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If you will get up a club of only 11 yearly subscribers to this paper this month at 25c. each, making $2.75 in all, we will send you one of the best **56 Piece Tea Sets** you have seen, or we will sell the sets for 30 days only including a year's subscription to this paper for only **$2.98.** This unheard of offer is only made from the fact that we have just secured an immense invoice of goods before the high flush time rates and full-tide prices were put on. These sets are of the latest and most beautiful design, of choicest coloring and pattern, they are regular $5.00 and $6.00 store price sets. This useful and ornamental set, which would adorn and beautify any abode of luxury, we shall **give away** for a short time to readers of this paper. Let us tell you what it is. It is a 56-piece tea set consisting of teapot, sugar bowl, cream pitcher, 12 cups, 12 saucers, 12 tea plates, 2 cake plates, 12 preserve dishes and one slop bowl. It is of the finest style ware, and every piece perfect in design and shape. Never was a more handsome set put together and it will be a marvel of beauty for years. It is the perfection of daintiness and every woman loves it the moment she sees it.

Remember we will send one of these sets to you by freight for a club of only eleven subscribers to this monthly at 25c. each. If you delay until next issue they will cost much more. Address COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

BEEF ISSUE DAY.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



FOR MANY years the various tribes of American Indians, not self-supporting, received rations at regular and stated times from the United States Government. It was customary to distribute the meat upon a certain day of one week, and upon the same day of the following week, the other rations; in each case the quantity issued was expected to last for two weeks. The general supplies were cereals, lard, tea, coffee, sugar, salt, etc., dealt out in accordance with the size of each family; the beef was supplied "on the hoof," instead of "from the block" as is the present custom.

During the time that the Cherokee Commission was negotiating with the Cheyenne and Arapaho Indians, the Commissioners with members of their families were stationed for months at Fort Reno, Indian Territory. The encampments of those Indians were close at hand, and there was a fine opportunity to learn something of life among the untamed barbarians.

Beef Issue was a time of great excitement to the Indians, to which they looked forward with eager longing, while to the civilized it was a harrowing spectacle never willingly witnessed a second time, unless by those who were destitute of the attributes of pity and mercy. The sight was one of the most revolting exhibitions of cruelty to animals ever tolerated in a Christian land, and doubly shocking because sanctioned by the government, as represented by the Indian Department, the horrible butchery being conducted under the eyes of government officials.

One autumn morning at an early hour, a party left Fort Reno for a certain point four miles distant, where the beef was to be distributed that day to the Indians of this especial reservation. The party included the Commissioners with their wives, the Indian Agent, a United States Army officer, detailed to inspect the cattle and superintend the work, and a small detachment of troops. Passing the shabby but picturesque tepees of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Indians, clustered at desirable points on the rolling prairie, it was evident that unusual activity prevailed. As the little procession from the fort drew near the designated place, the Indians could be seen approaching from different directions, hastening towards a large, rudely constructed corral, where more than one hundred wild Texan steers were confined. The older men either came walking through the tall grass that partially concealed them, or else two or three would be astride of a small pony, as they have no mercy upon any beast. All of these were blanketed Indians, only just ready to receive gifts from the government, but not ready to adopt any garments suggesting civilization. All wore moccasins, were enveloped in white cotton blankets, long hair braided, with the scalp lock decorated with feathers.

As this pastime was furnished by the Indian Department as a slight compensation for the loss of pleasure and profit consequent upon the disappearance of the buffalo, the young "bucks" who were to take an active part in the "hunt," came mounted upon their ponies. One hundred of these braves, ready for the fray, were drawn up in line near the corral, awaiting the first act in the tragedy of the day.

In one corner of the inclosure we saw the scales for weighing the animals and the branding chute. It was the duty of the Indian agent and the army officer to inspect the cattle, when those that were accepted were weighed in their presence. With great difficulty the poor dumb creatures were driven into the branding chute, where they were packed as closely as possible. All of them seemed wild with fear, but the worst was yet to come. The branders stood ready with heated irons and watched their opportunity to quickly press the red hot metal upon the back or flank of each struggling creature, when his frantic plunge and roar of pain only increased the enjoyment of his savage tormenters. In the writhings and turnings to escape, one occasionally stumbled or the long, curved horns became locked, each miserable condition being welcomed with shouts of joy by "the wards of our government" who with great glee continued to prod the animals with sharp irons. The reason given for the branding is, that the letters "I. D." are necessary for the protection of the Indian in whose possession a hide is found, proving that it became his through the generosity of the Indian Department.

The mounted Indians were near the chute, and when this part of the work ended, one by one their names were called. Each one designated came forward and marked his property by cutting off its tail or an ear, or possibly by a dextrous stroke struck a horn down to the quick, or applied an additional brand. Sometimes the more humane plan was adopted of tying a strip of cloth to the creature. When all were labelled, the gate was opened; with blows and shouts the maddened animals were turned loose upon the prairie, only to confront new dangers as they strove to escape from the brutal crowd.

As soon as a "buck" recognized his property, he broke from the ranks, urged his pony to its highest speed and chased the frenzied steer, occasionally firing his Winchester rifle. Many shots were fired at random; as it is a pleaure to prolong this mimic buffalo chase, the aim is not to kill, but to produce agony. From time to time the gate was opened and other steers rushed out, until the prairie seemed literally alive with the frightened beasts and the racing, yelling Indians. At last one totters, falls, tries to rise, but after a few useless efforts sinks exhausted, struggling and bellowing until its owner is pleased to fire the finishing shot. But the height of cruelty was not reached until the brave sprang from his pony, seized the dying creature, cut out its tongue, hung it to his saddle bow and rode proudly to the spot where the older Indians waited to show his trophy of the exciting hunt.

The whole scene was fantastic and uncanny; the Indians in ghostly wrappings, their long black hair unbraided in their race was streaming over face and shoulders, the eagle feathers dangling from each scalp lock, as with Winchesters held high, uttering hideous yells and whoops they spurred their nimble footed ponies to circle round and round the flying, terrified beasts. It was a spectacle to fill one with disgust and horror; the exhibition was a stain upon the starry field of our nation's flag and a scathing commentary upon our boasted civilization of the nineteenth century.

The wife of one of the Commissioners could not restrain her tears at the shocking brutality and expressed to the agent in very plain language her opinion of the demoralizing effect of such practices, and the disgrace reflected upon a government that permitted such barbarity. The agent was disturbed at her criticism but could only say as an excuse—"It pleases the Indians."

As soon as the butchery was over the squaws gathered like vultures, for to their care the dead cattle are intrusted. They fell at once to work, and while the flesh was still quivering with life, fevered from the wild dash for liberty, the creatures were skinned, the carcasses cut up, loaded upon wagons and drawn to the tepees. One beef was apportioned to eleven persons, the squaws being strictly honest in the distribution. Every portion is utilized but the eyes and horns and the portions usually classed as offal were used in a way disgusting and shocking to civilized beings. For five full days contentment abided in the tepees. Nothing but meat was eaten until the supply was exhausted; then they reluctantly turned their attention to the other rations, as they waited for another Beef Issue, their regularly recurring holiday.

There were Government Schools and devoted missionaries at work upon this same reservation, and one could but reflect that much of the good they might have done was counteracted by the fiendish influence of such brutal scenes at regular and stated intervals.

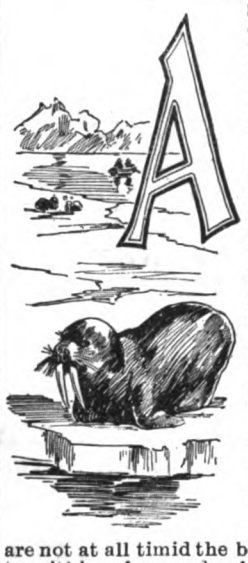
Upon some of the reservations there were serious difficulties to overcome before this method could be changed. There was often a lack of water and suitable drainage, while in other cases, the Indians were restive, liked the way that they had been accustomed to receive their beef, did not care for a change, and it was very easy for the agent to oblige them, without running the risk of serious discontent.

In a majority of cases these objections have been overcome, and the baneful practice is discontinued. This has been accomplished in the last four years, and soon, it is hoped, "beef on the hoof" will be a thing of the past; then supplies will be "from the block" under proper sanitary regulations.

The life of the Indian is no longer made luxurious in accord with his savage ideas, and he views the possibility of becoming like the white man with far more interest than a decade ago, when the government supplies all of his wants with a lavish hand, possibly regarding his needs from the standpoint of our higher civilization. He is now learning the richest lesson of his life, the value of labor; when that is achieved and he ceases to be a dependent idler, the long-debated Indian question will be practically settled.

WALRUS HUNTING.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



A SPORT that our Arctic explorers and other visitors to the Arctic Ocean have found highly exciting as well as rather dangerous, is that of walrus hunting. Though the walrus on the ice is a clumsy, awkward creature, he is quite the reverse while in the water, as numerous tales of the Esquimaux and others who have had encounters with them will testify. When the Esquimaux, who are of course famous walrus hunters go after their prey, they approach them in boats until near enough for the harpoon to be thrown—the nearer the better. The creatures are usually found on the ice-floes, and as they are not at all timid the boat can sometimes get to within a few yards of them before the blow is delivered.

The harpoon used is a wicked affair. To its head is attached a very long and tremendously strong line of whale-skin, while the handle is loose and easily separated from the head. When the harpoon is thrown the head penetrates the thick skin, while the handle comes off and floats in the water. The line is attached to the head in such a way that instead of pulling out when the line is taut, it turns at right angles to the wound; so that it is impossible for the walrus to get away unless the line breaks. This way and that the walrus swims, towing the boat here and there with frightful speed, its occupants in danger of being dashed against an icefloe, or of being overturned and drowned. At last, however, if everything goes well, the poor beast is tired out and a lance thrust or bullet in a vital part puts it out of suffering. Then he is towed back to shore and cut up.

Accidents frequently happen; the walrus sometimes turns on his captors and many a kayak, as the Esquimaux boats are called, has been overturned or destroyed and the occupants either drowned or killed by the infuriated beasts.

It is possible to shoot walruses, of course, but unless the shot kills the creature instantly there is great danger that he will get into the water and sink.

The cry of these animals is a deep groan or bark, and the Esquimaux are very clever in imitating this cry and often succeed in attracting the creatures to their boat when they are not in sight on the ice.

The walrus grows frequently to a weight of twenty-five hundred pounds, and does not look unlike an overgrown hog with the exception of its huge flippers, bristles, whiskers and long ivory tusks. Its skin is very thick, and is wrinkled and warty, and covered with a sparse growth of reddish or grey hair. The size of its head is out of all proportion to the size of its body.

On land a more ungainly object would be hard to find, but in the water it is indeed a worthy foeman.

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22	Old Folks at Home.	638	Call me back again.	1170	Song that Broke My Heart.	1421	I long to see Old Home.
28	You'll remember me.	639	Milwaukee Fire.	1192	Hear Dem Bells.	1434	The Church across the Way.
30	Kathleen Mavoureen.	673	A Boy's Best Friend.	1202	Irish Jubilee.	1458	One Girl in the World for me.
77	My old Kentucky Home.	712	Ship that never returned.	1240	Picture turned to the Wall.	1459	Denied a Home.
84	I'll be all smiles to-night.	713	Why dig Ma's Grave.	1249	Sentenced to Death.	1460	After your Wandering.
95	Gipsy's Warning.	717	Some Day I'll wander back.	1260	Pardon came too late.	1462	I'll never go out with Riley.
107	Back to Old Virginny.	748	Texas Ranger.	1278	Takes a Girl to do it.	1466	She may've seen Better Days.
113	Two Orphans.	761	Dying Girl's Message.	1287	Push dem Clouds away.	1471	My Dad's the Engineer.
171	Drunkard's Lone Child.	806	Photograph of Mother.	1290	The Broken Home.	1484	I never Loved till I met You.
172	Tenting Old Camp Ground.	920	Letter that never came.	1298	Man in the Moon.	1488	If They would only Write.
222	Sherman's March to the Sea.	928	Save my Mother's Picture.	1304	In Old Madrid.	1494	Denny Murphy's Daughter.
242	Farmer's Daughter.	938	Dad's Dinner Pail.	1311	He never cares to Wander.	1497	You are my Sweetheart.
254	I left Ireland.	952	Dying Cowboys Lament.	1327	Still the World goes on.	1498	Better than Gold.
302	Butcher Boy.	972	Package of Old Letters.	1336	Kiss and Let's make up.	1500	Let Me take My Place again.
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331	Remember the Poor Tramp.	1000	Song that reached my Heart.	1346	Volunteer Organist.	1514	Pictures from Life.
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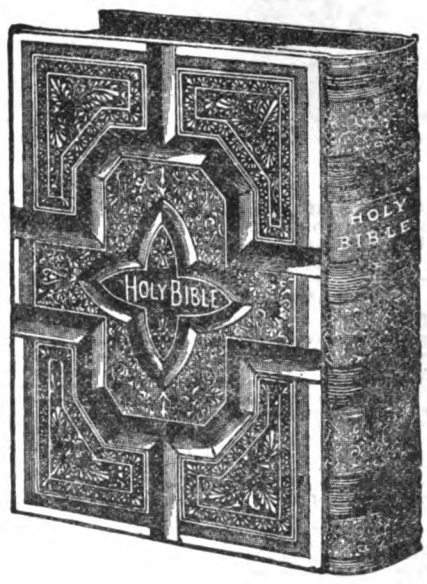


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HOW NEWS IS GATHERED.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



PEOPLE pick up the daily paper, read it through with more or less care, according to their time and inclination, and throw it aside. Of the same edition one man may say, "It's very strange how little there really is in the paper," while another will remark, as he lays it down, "What a remarkable collection of material to be provided us for so small a sum."

But of all the millions who read the paper, however, it is strange how few ever stop to think of the amount of labor required to produce what they buy for almost nothing, read, and toss aside; or, of the methods employed for bringing all this material together.

It would be far beyond the limit of a single article to do justice to the subject of news gathering, and I shall write merely of some of the more generally employed methods of which, however, I imagine most people are as ignorant as I was myself until I went into a newspaper office to work.

So far as I had any idea, up to that time, of the methods employed for collecting the news which was to be printed in the paper, I think it was that each paper had a large force of reporters who were turned loose on the world each morning, to wander about until they chanced to run across some happening of sufficient importance to make it of interest to the general public. Of the systematic way in which the work is carried on I had no idea, nor, I am inclined to believe, have people in general. Of course individual systems in different offices vary, but the general principle is about the same everywhere.

First there are the great news associations, more or less wide spread, with their reporters scattered almost everywhere. The representative of a news association in any town reports any important event which occurs within his territory, and a brief summary of his report is telegraphed all over the country, to the papers connected with that association. In some places there will be local associations doing similar work on a smaller scale. In many cities there will be what are known as "accident notification bureaus," or "fire notification companies." These make it their business to telephone the earliest possible notice of an accident, arrest, or fire to the offices of all the papers in that city which have agreed to pay them for doing so. In one city I know a young man who makes a good living by furnishing the papers of the city lists of names of the arrivals at all of the leading hotels in the city. He makes a certain number of trips to each hotel every day, copies the names from the registers and then supplies quickly-made manifold copies to such papers as subscribe for his service. It costs the papers only a dollar or two a week, and yet he makes good wages.

Almost all of the larger papers utilize these channels for obtaining material. In very many cases the accounts sent in by these associations are as full as are desired. In others the information received in this way serves merely as a hint to an editor who has a keen news instinct. He sees in it the possibility for a more or less interesting "story," and the reporter on his force at liberty at the time, whom he thinks best fitted to deal with that particular line of work, is assigned to follow it up.

The word "story" is used in newspaper offices with a peculiar signification, and the new man who has associated with the word only the idea of a piece of fiction, in which a more or less intricate plot is dressed up in attractive language, is surprised to be sent out to get a half column "story" about such prosaic matters as the proceedings of the Board of Trade at a meeting held to consider the subject of rates of fire insurance.

Most well-regulated newspaper offices have an assignment box. This is a case divided into compartments numbered to correspond with the days of the month.

To each paper the mail of every day brings a considerable number of announcements of coming events, programs, tickets, and invitations. These are carefully assorted into their appropriate compartments in the box. Verbal announcements are written down and cared for likewise. Often information comes in the form of a mere hint, of which at the time only a memorandum can be made; and the success of an editor depends very largely upon the wideness of this circle of personal acquaintances on whom he can draw in this way, and on the quickness which he possesses to perceive the real value of any hint which may be given. Along with all the rest of this material there goes into the box innumerable items concerning matters of future interest, clipped each day from the papers of that day, by a man whose business it is to go through the exchanges with a pair of shears, looking out for just this kind of material.

Then, each day, the space in the box devoted to the next day is emptied and the contents carefully sorted over by the editor. Some things will have lost their interest, even in the short time they have been lying there. Others are of too little value to require attention. Still others can be left to the reports which will be sent in by the news associations. There remains the small residue which the editor considers of sufficient importance for his paper to justify his sending out special reporters. If an assignment is for morning or early forenoon it is usually given out the night before, otherwise not until the next day. Such information as may have been collected on that special matter is put into the hands of the reporter for his assistance, and the editor is usually able to add a few words of personal suggestion or advice, often of the greatest value.

Usually one reporter during the day, and another at night, has for his exclusive and regular work the watching of the police headquarters. In most cities it is the rule that the record book is kept at police headquarters in which is supposed to be entered a brief report of any arrest which is made or any accident reported, directly after the police themselves have the information. The reporter decides for himself, or the city editor decides for him, if the matter is of sufficient importance for the reporter to work it up.

In addition to its other branches for news-getting every large paper has its own corps of correspondents, scattered all over the country, who are expected to be on the watch for any important event in their territory. In the larger cities these will be men who give their whole time to the work. In the smaller cities and towns they are generally men connected with local newspaper work, often the editor of the local paper. It is not left to them to decide what and how much material they shall telegraph in, for they would be apt to overestimate public interest in what seems of great importance to them, and send in a longer account than the real value of the story would justify.

The method employed is this. Early each evening, the correspondent, if anything has happened in his territory that day, such as a fire, or an accident, wires to the newspaper office what is called a bulletin of it. This is the gist of the story compressed into the fewest possible words, and the correspondent indicates at the end what he thinks would be a fair length as, "$10,000 fire John Smith fireman broken back 20 hogs burned 100 words."

The night editor considers all these bulletins as they come in, decides which are essential, and wires back an order for the article, if he wishes it, varying the number of words to be sent as he thinks advisable. All large newspaper offices have a sufficient number of telegraph instruments operated by the large companies directly in the newspaper office now, so that all this wiring back and forth consumes little time, and the story finally comes in from the correspondent in ample time for the early edition.

The "grave yard" of a newspaper office has been so often written of that almost every one knows how, in every well-managed office, all the papers of each day are carefully gone over, and from them clipped every item which gives any information in regard to any person who is prominent, or has any chance of becoming so.

These clippings are systematically filed, and become available for obituary notices or biographical articles whenever they are called for. A quiet tip, given to an editor by a friendly physician, that he has been called to prescribe for the Hon. Mr. Blank and found him seriously ill, sends a force of men skurrying to the "grave yard" for the envelope containing the clippings pertaining to that man. These clippings are scissored, pasted, and connected into a lengthy obituary notice. This is sent upstairs to be set in type, marked "hold for orders," until the telephone bell rings the announcement of the death of this man when a hurriedly prepared extra gives an account of his life and death to the street.

The amount of time and labor put into these collections is very great, and it is said that the "grave yard" of the New York Herald is insured for $250,000.

It may not be generally known, however, that a well-arranged "grave yard" contains much more than a collection of articles pertaining merely to people. Famous buildings go in there, with the chance that they may sometime be burned, or celebrate an anniversary, in either of which cases their history becomes of interest. Accounts of floods and accidents are valuable for purposes of comparison. The scope of the collection is limited only by the room at the disposal of the office or by the amount of force which can be assigned to doing the work.

Tobacco Raising in the United States.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



WHEN the white men first came to America, they discovered among other things the tobacco plant. The Indians raised enough tobacco for their own use, and the habit of smoking was taken up by the Europeans at once. Sir Walter Raleigh introduced tobacco, together with the perhaps more useful potato, into England.

When the colonists settled Virginia, tobacco became the favorite crop, in fact it was so easy to raise and so profitable to sell that it was found necessary, to prevent a famine, to pass laws requiring the planters to raise a certain amount of maize for each acre of tobacco planted. Every ship that sailed to the mother country carried large cargoes of

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 21.)

ALMOST MIRACULOUS.

Facts That Are Stranger Than Fiction.

The wonderful results that have blessed the work of the Christian Scientists at the end of the nineteenth century, seem almost miraculous to the ordinary layman who has not seriously considered their methods, or who perhaps has forgotten that in the inspired word all things are promised to those who ask and that those who ask shall find.

While the Christian Scientists of modern times make no claim of ability to work miracles or to raise the dead, it is an incontestable fact that through the knowledge of the superiority of mind over matter and the skill acquired by years of study of the lessons taught by the great intellects of all ages, the most wonderful results have been achieved in the cure of the physical ailments of distressed humanity. No disease has been proof against this treatment and no case of human suffering has failed to secure relief even when the sufferer has been without belief in Christian Science and has had no personal knowledge of or contact with the Healer.

Notable among the most successful of the Christian Science Healers of today is S. A. Jefferson, Chicago, Ill., who is blessed by the grateful prayers of hundreds if not thousands of those who have been restored to health by intelligent application of the methods of Christian Science. To those who are suffering and who desire to test the beneficent results of this treatment; bearing in mind that distance and unbelief in the theory of Christian Science make no difference; a little book called "A Message of Health" and giving detailed information regarding this blessed truth, will be sent on application and receipt of a 2 cent stamp by S. A. JEFFERSON, Room 39, Fairbanks Bldg., Chicago, Ill.

FREE BY MAIL One pkg. flower seeds, two varieties Coleus, two Ivies, one Heliotrope, Ageratum, Geranium, Chrysanthemum, well rooted, well packed. All for 25c. Address FLORIST, Augusta, Maine.

ADDRESS The National Supply Co., Detroit, Mich., for their liberal offer to Boys and Girls.

HYPNOTISM

DOES IT PAY? FREE!



That is the chief question for the practical reader. Everybody admits that it is an interesting and wonderful science. It is the only science existing that penetrates to the hidden and inscrutable recesses of thought. Its grasp is on the MIND as that of the physical sciences is on MATTER. It deals with the unseen, the intangible, the mysterious. But, you ask, does it pay to learn it? Does it pay to know it? Does it pay to acquire its methods and practice it as an art or calling? I at once answer you, yes, emphatically, YES. Just apply to it the same tests that you would to any other business, craft or calling. Why do you study any of them? Is it not to earn a living, to provide for your family, to secure an independence, to obtain friends, distinction and happiness for yourself and your loved ones? It certainly is; these are the objects in life that men strive and toil for, and I tell you that Hypnotism offers a surer and speedier way to obtain them than any other means open to the rising generation. This is true, and I will give you the best proof of it. I will give you for the asking a copy of MY FREE BOOK, which is entitled, a "Key to the Mysteries of Hypnotism," but is likewise a triumphant answer to the question, "Does it pay?" This is a book of elegant appearance, richly illustrated on every page, and is certainly the nicest book ever given away free in the interests of science. It cost me much time, labor and money, but it will cost you nothing whatever but the trouble of writing for it, even on a postal card, if need be. As the title implies, my book tells you all about Hypnotism, its history, development, methods, phenomena and uses, but flashing out of every line you will also learn the secret of how it pays. In the first place, it is easy and quick to learn, easier than any other study which forms the basis of a livilihood or profession. Anybody who can merely read can master it quickly, and then will never forget it. Surely that is a paying feature to the youth starting out in life, to the bread-winner who desires a change for the better, or anybody needing an honorable and lucrative profession. Compare it, if you like, with the years spent in college to learn law or medicine, or the years of apprenticeship to a trade or busisess. But Hypnotism also PAYS PROMPTLY in this one grand feature, it gives you control of other minds and direction of their wills. You may not at once see what that amounts to. Send for and read my book, FREE, and you will find that this mental dominion is a passport to social favor, to public reputation, to advancement in position, and to the highest success in business. Control of other minds is not only thus a fortune-winner, but my book will show you how it works to banish pain, to cure every known disease or bad habit, to correct either moral or intellectual frailty, to win ardent love and devoted friendship, to benefit, to bless and to entertain all around you, not only for instant gain, but for a continuance of health, prosperity and happiness. Now, if I prove all this, won't you admit that IT PAYS? Well, my book proves it. It costs you nothing to get it. It is a master-key to all the treasure vaults of life. Write for it this very hour, and learn the knowledge that all this world's a-seeking. IT IS FREE. Address, **Prof. L. A. HARRADEN, Jackson, Michigan.**





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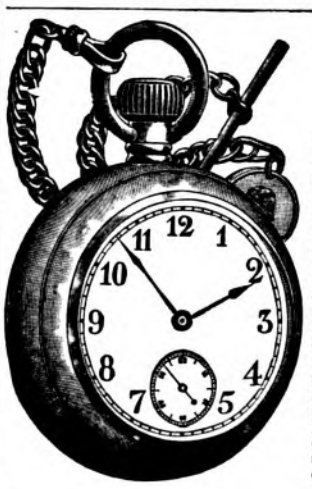
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ALL MEN AND BOYS

require a good knife that has not only got the **right stuff** in it but it must be strong and be large enough for all round service. The detachable and adjustable knife here illustrated is made in Sweden. This knife is made from the finest hand forged **razor steel,** it is very strong and made in the very best manner. It is not only an every day **Pocket knife** but for hunting and purposes where strength and utility is wanted it makes the most satisfactory and desirable knife in existence. The small illustration showing knife in the hand gives an idea of the open ready for use knife; the large illustration shows the **brass** frame which the blade shuts into before it all slides into the strongly made handle marked "Sweden." The Swedes are the most honest and thorough workmen in the world and Swedish Razors have a world wide reputation. These knives are now having a large sale in America on account of their great strength, durability and keen edge. The handle is four inches long and blade and handle together seven inches long.



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TALKS WITH GIRLS.

CONDUCTED BY COUSIN MARION.

A Happy New Year to you, dears, and all the good of another century, brought down into the few short years that the good Lord gives to us. May it be not only a happy New Year, but every day of it happier than its predecessor. Now let us to our task.

The first inquirer is Forest Fern, Felt Mills, N. Y., who wants to know as so many of my cousins do, about permitting familiarities from young men. All I can say to her and to all, now and always is, "For Heaven's sake, don't." Why do you want to make yourself cheap and common?

Innocent, Richardson, Tenn.—Get the young man out of your thoughts until you are twenty-one. Time enough then to worry.

Marie Louise, Hallowdale, Miss.—Accept nothing but the most formal attention from any married man. (2) It is against the law in most states to marry a first cousin. (3) Parents cannot legally prevent children who are of age from marrying.

M. P. C., Clark's Mills, N. Y.—Write to McGibbon & Co., 19th St., B'd'way, New York.

Ignorance, Magnolia, Miss.—Thanksgiving Day originated in New England, and was simply a day set apart for thanks after the harvests were all in.

Rose Lily, Saguache, Cal.—Don't "accept a man's company" until you know him very well. (2) There is everything in "how a young lady carries herself in company with young men," and she cannot be too careful. (3) It is highly inproper for a young lady to smoke cigarettes anywhere.

Rosile, Portland, Ore.—Write to Superintendent Census, Washington, D. C.

Gladys, North Town, Minn. A general acceptance of a young man's company for an evening ought to mean that he has first claim on you.

Pauline, Albany, Ga.—The eighteen year old boy may think and say that he loves you, but make him wait till he is at least of age. If he won't wait he doesn't love you at all.

Miss Pattie, Duval, Fla.—You have acted foolishly and should write to the young man saying so, and apologizing.

Alma, Campbellsburg, Ky.— Rich men looking for beautiful young girls to adopt as their daughters are very scarce. I do not know the address of a single one.

Lilac, Milwaukee, Wis. Yes, wear your hair in a braid and don't worry about your size. Precious articles are put up in small packages.

H. W. C., Washington, D. C.—Your system is run down and you need a tonic. Consult your physician. (2) The man orders the supper after the theater under the lady's direction. (3) Ask your druggist.

D. J., Croton, N. Y.—It is the lady's place to speak first. (2) A boy of seventeen may walk home from church with you if he is a nice boy.

S. R. S., Moore's Mills, N. Y.—Write to the postmaster at Albany for the information you wish, enclosing stamp for reply.

Rose, Enfield, Ills.—All wedding arrangements are made after consultation between both parties. The young lady may and should visit the home of the parents of the man she is to marry.

M. T., Irvine, Ky.—See advertisement in COMFORT for the books you want.

Brunette, Leiter's Ford, Ind.—It is hardly the right thing to refuse to dance, unless you are there as a spectator, or as chaperone.

Daisy, Sprague, Wis.—The right kind of a girl will not want to flirt with one man when she is engaged to another.

Beryl, Essex, Ont.—A visit to Europe is worth more to you than a trip through the States, expense and history considered. (2) Always dress simply. (3) Don't hide your love for the young man, if he loves you and tells you so.

Tom Girls, Burlington, Me.—As a rule it is safe to let your parents judge of a young man's fitness to be your associate. (2) Have nothing to do with one man who backbites another. (3) The young man has a right to say you must not write to other men. (4) From five to ten years is a good difference in the age of man and wife.

Bicycle Girl, Bee, Ark.—There is no harm in taking your wheel when you go to visit friends, nor in giving your picture to a young man—if he is your kinsman.

Fern, Paducah, Ky.—A bride should wear gloves. (2) Certainly, a lady should thank a man for helping her off a car.

P. and J., Worcester, Mass.—There is no way of compelling a rejected correspondent to return your letters. (2) Don't accept presents from men if you are afraid they will presume upon them. (3) Politeness only occasionally compels you to go with a man you do not like.

Correspondent, Weatherford, Tex.—There is no place in the wide world where you can sell stories, poems, &c., and have them printed and paid for at once. Editors always do just as they please with such.

Lily Polly, Brownfield, Ills.—It is not elegant for a man to smoke in a lady's company, and positively bad form for him to smoke on the street with her.

G. B., Stockbridge, Wis.—You could not do better than learn photography and practice it as a profession.

D. H. B., Ralph, Ky.—Marry the man if you love him, and don't if you don't. (2) Ask your druggist for an insectifuge.

Iona Linden, Chicago, Ills.—Study your grammar and forget for five years that there is a young man in the world.

E. K., Taos, Mo.—Stop corresponding with the young man if he is serious and you are not. (2) The whole is warm blooded.

Eva Van, Castle Leo, Cal.—As far as I can judge, I should say you might safely accept the young man. It is all right to walk three miles to church with him if there is no conveyance.

Untorown, Union Mills, Pa.—You can get a glass stopper out of a bottle by running a red hot poker carefully around the bottle neck. (2) Write to COMFORT for the song.

Dewdrop, Mt. Laurel Va.—The man precedes the lady going into church, unless it is her own church and he does not know where her pew is.

Violet, Columbus, Ohio.—It is extremely risky to marry a man who is sulky if he can't have his own way. Married people must divide their stubbornness.

Lorena, Trenton, N. J.—Be nice and polite to the young man and see if he will respond. But don't think too much about him.

Fannie, Vernon, Fla.—Put on long dresses when you begin to teach school. (2) Just go on despising the young man and let other people see you do it.

Deborah, Slaughter, La.—It is correct to speak to your partner in the dance.

Now your questions are all answered except some silly ones about hugging and kissing that every nice girl ought to know instinctively, and I wish you again a Happy New Year. By by till next month.

COUSIN MARION.

Tobacco Raising in the United States.

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 20.)

tobacco, and brought back the products of the old world to the colonists.

Tobacco is one of the important crops of America today, though only in recent years has the United States come to be considered a tobacco-growing country. Though the native tobacco is as good as any, it has taken the recent troubles in Cuba for us to find this out, for the Cuban crop being neglected, smokers were forced to use native tobacco, which was found very satisfactory. This is not remarkable in view of the fact that many of the so-called Havana cigars made in the United States in reality are manufactured of native tobacco.

The annual production of tobacco in the United States is close to 500,000,000 pounds, and from this the government has received in the last twenty-five years as a revenue tax, over a billion dollars ($1,000,000,000.) Though generally supposed to be a southern product, it is raised as far north as Wisconsin and Vermont. The largest amount of tobacco is grown in Pennsylvania, while over 65,000,000 pounds were raised last year, and it is also a product of the states of Vermont, Kentucky, Virginia, Illinois, Massachusetts, Florida, New York, Wisconsin, Ohio and Connecticut.

The tobacco leaf resembles in shape and size the leaf of the rubber plant. The plant requires a rich soil and plenty of moisture. In Virginia, in early colonial times, the planters would clear a new field for tobacco every two years at least, and the crops raised in this alluvial soil were remarkable for their luxuriance, and for their fine flavor when cured. At the present day, while it is impossible to change the location of the tobacco fields, fertilizers take the place of the virgin soil.

In northern localities the seeds are started under glass, and are transplanted early in the summer. They require plenty of water, and careful attention in weeding and the removal of insects, the tobacco worm especially, which will completely ruin a crop in a very short time if not carefully removed.

When the plants are full grown they are cut off at the roots with shears and hung up to dry in a shed, the sides of which are left open to secure a perfect circulation of air. In about a month's time the tobacco is properly cured. Recently a process has been invented for curing the leaf in a closed shed, by means of hot air forced in through glass. This does the work in three or four days, and is in some ways better than the old process. When the leaf has been properly cured and dried, it is allowed to season and become slightly damp again. The leaves are then stripped from the stalks, are sorted according to length and quality, and tied into handles. These are packed in cases containing 300 or 350 pounds each and are ready for shipment. In preparing the tobacco for market the greatest care has to be used, as a very slight mistake may ruin the crop. The government is conducting experiments in tobacco curing, in the hope of reaching better results in this direction than have been obtained heretofore.

As to the quality of the tobacco grown in the various states. The Pennsylvania leaf is of a peculiar texture, thick and rather gummy. This unfits it for cigar wrappers, but as a filler it is said to equal Cuban tobacco.

The Connecticut leaf is of fine texture, good for cigar wrappers and in flavor some experts declare that it surpasses the very finest foreign leaf. In Ohio the tobacco crop is comparatively new, but results have been most satisfactory. In Illinois the crop grown in the southern part is made into "plug" tobacco, that in the north produces good leaf for cigars.

In Virginia and in the Carolinas is grown the fine, light-colored tobacco that is made into cigarettes and the finer grades of smoking tobacco. In spite of the popular feeling against the cigarette, the fact remains that the finest tobacco raised is used in their manufacture. In Kentucky also, "curley" tobacco used in smoking mixtures is raised, while Louisiana furnishes the strong "perique" which forms an ingredient of all fine mixtures.

In Florida tobacco has been raised for centuries, though at one time it was abandoned for orange culture. The severe frosts during the winters of 1894 and 1895, which froze and ruined the orange crop just as it was ready for shipment, caused the growers to look for a surer crop, and tobacco was restored to favor. Experiments have lately been made there with a view to producing a leaf equal to or better than the Havana or Cuban tobacco. These experiments seem to be successful and good Florida leaf now commands a very high price.

In Vermont the crop has proven quite profitable and the leaf has been largely used in northern and western cities for making five and ten cent "Havana" cigars.

Methods of raising the crop of course differ in different states with climatic and soil conditions. Space does not permit a description of these variations, and the process of raising the tobacco plant is substantially as here set down.

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HERE is a chance to use your Brains and Win $500.00 in Gold. We want you to try and arrange these 20 jumbled letters printed in the block square to the left which properly arranged will spell the names of 3 large cities in the World, two of these cities being in the United States, the other one being a Foreign City. In making the 3 names the letters can only be used as many times as they appear and no letter can be used which does not appear. After you have found the 3 correct names you will have used every letter in the 20 exactly as many times as it appears. If you cannot find the 3 correct names but only find 2, you will receive a special prize for your trouble worth $1. If you answer this puzzle at once you will not be disappointed. Some one is going to win the money and it may be you. Anyway it does not cost you any money to try. All we ask is that should our committee award you a prize, that you will secure for us one yearly subscriber to our Handsome Illustrated Monthly Magazine, and as pay for securing this one subscriber, we will give you your choice of a valuable list of presents. This we can truthfully say is the very hardest puzzle ever advertised, so get out your Geography and look for these 3 cities. The correct names are only known to the President of this Company. The envelope containing the three names has been sealed and deposited with a leading Banking Co. in Boston, and will only be opened up the day after the contest closes. This we believe is the only honest way of conducting a contest, as everyone has an equal chance. In case more than one person succeeds in finding the three correct names we will divide the money equally. In addition to the $500.00 in gold we will give you an opportunity to Win

$5.00 A WEEK FOR LIFE FREE

WITHOUT ANY LABOR OR EXPENSE.

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COMFORT, Augusta, Maine

TRANSVAAL DIAMONDS.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



IF the Transvaal were a waste of desert England and the Boers would not have found it worth while to go to war. But its wealth is of more than one kind, and perhaps its most unique possession is the diamond mines at Kimberley. These are by far the richest mines in the world and more than 98 per cent. of the diamonds of the world come from their depths.

Some years ago an adventurer in South Africa begged a night's lodging at the house of a Dutch farmer. He soon discovered that the children were using as playthings some bright pebbles which they said they had found in the garden. When the idea of their being diamonds was suggested to the farmer he took them to the nearest town and selling them was made rich for life. It was some years after, as late as 1870, that prospectors began to come through the country in search of the rich treasure held in gravel and clay of the region. From that time claims were taken up until more than three thousand were being worked within a comparatively narrow radius. In 1893 Cecil Rhodes brought about a great change in the management of all these claims and controlling so much property that the diamond market of the world is in his hands. Its capital is $19,000,000 and each year the output of the mines is worth about $25,000,000.

In the town of Kimberley is a large store house in which are kept probably a hundred million dollars worth of diamonds, and beside this much of the company's wealth is sent to London to be cut ready for use. This company is controlled by British capitalists and its store house is protected by a regiment of red-coated regulars, so this wealth is a plum of much promise to the Boers. With a single well planned raid upon this store sufficient wealth would fall into the hands of Oom Paul and his followers to hire mercenaries from all over Europe and equip them with the most modern accoutrements of war.

But how did all these precious stones come to be in the clay of Kimberley? Geologists tell us that in the early ages of the world the surface of the Transvaal was covered with a soft slaty rock containing a large amount of carbon. Then, through great cracks in the rock, came up boiling seething lava from the hot depths of the earth and, heating the slate to a white heat, the carbon was suddenly crystalized out of the rock into the clay of to-day. It is hard to believe that the shining gem and the bit of charcoal are made of identical elements but it is a fact.

The working of the mines at Kimberley is essentially different from that of any other mine in the world. In the first place the material in which the gems is held is soft and may be dug out instead of requiring blasting as in most mining. From the shaft in the middle of each mine galleries are built, one above another, and along these carts carry the earth to the surface, where it is spread out in the sun to dry. When the clay has reached a crumbly condition it is broken up and carried to a washing machine where the diamonds are separated from the fine soil by means of a water wheel which keeps the water in constant motion so that most of the fine clay is carried off and the heavier diamonds sink to the bottom. This sediment is then carefully examined and the diamonds taken from it by hand, so that none are overlooked. They are then sent to London to be cut.

Two of the Kimberley mines cover nineteen and thirty-five acres respectively and are the largest holes in the earth ever made by man. These mines have in their employ over fifteen hundred white men beside six thousand Kaffirs. It may be well seen that theft might be accomplished without difficulty if the utmost precaution were not taken. To take away a diamond worth a hundred thousand dollars would be an easy matter if the miners were allowed the freedom of the ordinary laborer. To prevent this the rules of the company are most rigid and no one would be tempted to enter its employ were it not for the exceptionally high wages paid. The Kaffirs are engaged for a term of months and during that time they are not allowed to leave the mine. Dormitories are provided for them and when they come from work at night each laborer is obliged to strip to the skin and leave his clothes behind him to be examined. Then a most thorough examination of their bodies has to be gone through, ears, nose and mouth, and even wounds being inspected for the precious stones which have in the past been found hidden therein. Each man is then given a blanket in which to wrap himself for the night. Over the sleeping sheds wire nettings are stretched to prevent the diamonds being thrown over. No man is allowed to even use ordinary money during his stay in the mine but is supplied with the company's specie. If stricken with sickness they are nursed at the company's hospital. Before he leaves the mine, at the end of his term of servitude, he is kept in the detention house for one week, stripped to the skin, and every act of his daily life is watched more closely than if he were a convict. But in spite of all these precautions many gems are stolen and the business of buying stolen diamonds is a profitable employment.

Some of the largest diamonds in the world have been taken from the Kimberley mines. A pale yellow stone weighing 225 carats was exhibited at Paris in 1889 and bought by an Eastern Prince. The Jagersfontein diamond is probably the largest known. It was found in 1894 by a Kaffir, who was loading clay into a cart. He gave it to the overseer and received a large reward. The stone is three inches long, two and one-half inches wide and one and one-half inches thick and weighs 971 carats. It is of a blue white color and in spite of a small flaw in the center is valued at $2,000,000. It is now in the possession of the pope having been given him by Oom Paul Kruger.

The Kimberley diamonds are not the rough, dull pebbles we are led to think of as an uncut diamond. They are bright and shining and after being boiled in a solution of nitric and sulphuric acid they are quite brilliant. In the store house at Kimberley are rooms in which 50,000 carats are exhibited at one time, sorted out in piles and of all shades, deep blue, pink, green, yellow and even dark brown. It is the policy of the company to allow but a small per cent. of their diamonds to be sold each year so that the price of gems is kept up and the dividends of the company are large while the amount of merchandise sold is small. Now if Boers should get possession of the storehouse or mines at Kimberley they would immediately put upon the market a large quantity of gems and the market value of diamonds would take a tremendous fall.

How To Cure RUPTURE

DEAR READER:—It gives me much pleasure and satisfaction to write this little story, for it contains a new and wonderful method of curing rupture or hernia, and places before the afflicted words of hope and tidings of great joy.

It is not my intention to use medical words or terms for the purpose of confusing those who are not familiar with them. I am sure this would not be more valuable for using those technical terms which some use, for the sole purpose of making some ignorant one believe they possess extraordinary knowledge

I am not going to describe the many ways one may become ruptured. In the many years I have treated ruptures I have been told of more than a thousand different things that caused my patients' affliction. That you are ruptured, and that I can cure you, is the purpose for which this is written, and it will surely be a blessing, coming unawares to those who follow its teachings.

There are several kinds of rupture and they are named according to their location, the most common being Scrotal, Umbilical (navel) and Femoral. They are again divided into two classes as reducible or irreducible. The reducible is one that can be returned to its proper place within the abdomen. The irreducible is one that cannot be returned. The last named is caused by going without a truss, but mostly by using some poor and ill-constructed one.



RUPTURED.

There are many people who are ruptured and don't know it. They will have at times a slight pain in the lower part of the abdomen. If they do much lifting or straining work it grows worse and will at times get so bad they think they have an attack of colic. They will take some medicine for colic, lie down, and in many cases the pain will disappear, because whatever was out returns to its natural position. But in other cases the surgeon has to be called because the rupture has become strangulated. In some cases he succeeds in reducing it, in others a surgical operation is necessary, and with others after hours of agony death only gives relief.

The best time to attend to a rupture is when it is small, perhaps in some cases no larger than an acorn. Many who have small ruptures say, "It is only a small one, does not give me any trouble, no need to bother about that."

SMALL RUPTURE DANGEROUS Let me say right here that to neglect the small rupture is one of the most terrible mistakes possible, for every minute life is in danger of immediate and painful death by strangulation, for the opening is so small that it only allows one intestine to come down. It then requires great force or pressure to move the contents and in many cases it becomes constricted which is very apt to prove fatal or require a painful surgical operation at a great cost of time and money.

HAVE YOU Perhaps you have suffered for years with rupture. If so, I have no doubt but you have tried many trusses and methods of cure, expended many dollars and always to same result—failure. Perhaps you have been told by some one or it has been spoken in your presence and you believed it because you never took time to think about it, that "rupture could not be cured."

IT CAN BE CURED Just think a minute of what is going on in your body. Two agencies at work, one constantly tearing you down, the other building you up or repairing, and as long as your vitality is good the repairing force keeps you in perfect health. Suppose you broke your arm, never had it set, or the proper appliance used to make it reunite and heal, the result would be that you would always have a broken arm. But you do have the proper attendance and care, and your arm in a short time is well again. So your rupture will heal if given the same chance—viz.: retain everything in a natural position the same as if there was no rupture and nature will do the rest. But the facts are:—you became ruptured, experienced very little or no pain, and you put off from day to day using the correct appliance needed to assist nature in its work. You needed a truss that would hold under every condition the strain from the injured part until it was healed, and strong enough to perform its work again. You need an appliance that HOLDS AND HEALS WHILE YOU WORK.

HOW COULD THIS HEAL The trusses that have been placed on afflicted ones in the past were constructed on the wrong principle and are now things of the past. In their day some were considered good and in some cases gave partial relief. They would hold one day and perhaps the next day would let the hernia out many times. In fact never two days alike because they were not self-adjusting. Some thought when the elastic was introduced, "here is a perfect truss at last," but they soon found out their mistake. They place all dependence on elastic webbing or belts which go around the body and they must be pulled or buckled tight enough so they are a torture, to bring the pads in position to bear on the rupture. Everyone knows that the sweat of the body will soon rot the elastic in the webbing, and so they must be continually stretching and giving out; never two days alike; consequently the intestines are being let out of their natural position, and never give the rupture a chance to heal. How can that kind of a truss cure a rupture? A rupture to be cured must be held securely in its natural position. It is probably a waste of time to tell you about old style trusses. You know it all. You know how you have suffered in warm weather from sweating and chafing. The belts and straps pulled up so tight over the galled parts that you would think, "I would rather die than suffer this any longer," and many, after repeated trials, unable to bear the torture any longer, are risking their lives and living in misery without a truss.

HOW TO CURE To effect a cure of hernia, all know that the hernial tumor or intestines must be held in an easy, comfortable and natural position, in fact to be in the same natural position that they would be in if there was no rupture. It has been my great fortune to have placed in my possession a new idea in the shape of what I may call a truss. Do not think it is one of those instruments of torture you have seen that has ropes, pulleys, elastics, etc. To compare mine with others would be like comparing the electric light with an old fashioned lamp. My appliance or truss stands out alone as a new idea, something far ahead of anything ever before placed upon a human being. A wonderful invention, holds with comfort everything in its proper, natural position, giving nature the chance to heal she has been waiting for. IT IS AS EASY TO WEAR AS A STOCKING, safe, simple, cleanly and durable.



CURED.

WILL LAST 100 YEARS IF NEEDED Cool and comfortable in warm weather, has no parts to chafe, does not absorb the foul odors of the body, always in place, always comfortable, always healing. It has no elastic webbing, no straps between the legs and no spring around the body. No matter what your position is, it never need changing.

YOU WORK WHILE IT HEALS No loss of time. Our appliance stands out alone, a new idea, PATENTED BY THE U.S. GOVERNMENT, and has been proven to be far in advance of any other appliance for the cure of rupture.

DOES IT DO THIS Does your truss hold you at all times? Is it comfortable, giving you a feeling of safety that you are all right? Is your rupture week by week growing smaller? If not, throw away that truss. Don't lose your health, perhaps your life, with such a contrivance. It is wrong in principle, wrong in construction, and may do a positive injury. In many cases the trusses are made and sold by persons who never saw a rupture. Belts, elastics, springs, and in fact everything that could be made, that some kind of a pad was fastened to, was put on to sufferers as a truss.

WHAT YOU WANT Is an appliance that holds everything in its natural position, SAFE, SURE, CLEANLY, HEALING, COMFORTABLE. So easy that you do not realize you are ruptured. You ask, "Is there such an appliance?" The answer is, "Yes! for I HAVE THAT APPLIANCE!" The inventor of this wonderful truss, the Rev. Jeremiah Hayden, who was chapiain of the 17th Maine Regiment, says:

THE PASTOR'S STORY "Finding myself ruptured, I sought advice of an elder brother who had the same trouble. He said, 'I have been ruptured for forty years, and have spent over $300 for trusses, and the one I have on now is the best one I ever had. It cost me $15 (it was an elastic truss) but it is breaking and I must get another.' On examination I found an elastic strap around him with every stitch of the webbing printed on his body, while the understrap that passed between his legs had chafed him so that he was red and sore. This led me to discover my truss, which is as EASY TO WEAR AS A STOCKING, and which ended all pain, danger and cost, and never needs repairing. I want to get it into the hands of my fellow-men who are suffering from this dangerous and painful infirmity, for I know it will be worth a hundred times its cost. I am broken down with kidney and heart disease, and I am in constant expectation of death. (82 years old.) The thought has been constantly before me: an invention which has the power to relieve so much suffering should not be buried with me. As I am not able, I want you to take measures to introduce it to the world, and if this is accomplished, I shall feel that my life has been of value to sufferers. As I have reflected upon the miseries of millions without means of relief, and the dismal certainty of their growing worse, and considered that I have in my keeping a comfortable, sure fitting, never failing remedy, amply proven and tested in my own and other cases, all which, at a glance, common sense will appreciate, I feel that it would be a giant wrong to mankind to have this invention buried with me, for AS I VALUE MY HONOR IN THIS WORLD AND MY SOUL IN THE NEXT, I unhesitatingly declare that a failure in any instance is impossible." A truly most wonderful invention; a blessing to mankind. An article that will cure, because it will hold everything just right, in its natural position, which gives the rupture a chance to re-unite and heal.

CAN YOU DOUBT What more need be said than the minister's statement printed above? Does any one believe for a moment that Mr. Hayden would make a statement he did not believe true? Will you be benefited by my method? It costs so little and success is certain. Why will you drag out a miserable existence when the means of relief are at your command?

TERMS: It is the perfect confidence I have in my method of cure that warrants me in adopting the above terms. Surely I have great faith in my way of treating rupture or I

NO CURE, NO PAY would never make the following proposition to you. It is a fair, honest offer that no other firm dare make, because they have not the goods to back it up. You will carefully fill up the Measure Blank with the answers to the questions asked thereon. We also ask you to sign our Special Order Blank. You will please send us those two blanks and the small sum stated on the Special Order Blank with your order. The reason I ask you to send this guarantee with the order is, there are so many people who are always writing for anything they can get for nothing. Many would write who are not ruptured. They know some one who is, and they want to get for nothing something they can sell the afflicted party for $10 or $15. There are others who have no gratitude in them; their object seems to be to get all they can for nothing and in no way ever think of repaying a favor or paying what rightfully belongs for them to pay. THIS I KNOW FROM ACTUAL EXPERIENCE. To keep such parties from troubling me, I have decided on the following plan: You are to send the two blanks before mentioned and the small amount stated thereon, the same to be held by us as a small guarantee of good faith. Upon receipt of same we at once send you by mail, all charges paid and safe delivery guaranteed, a truss, the same to be used by you. When cured you are to promptly send us $4.00 more and return our truss, which we only lend you. Many who get cured say they want to keep the truss. To all I will say that I will sell it at a fair price and charge according to the work done, and it will not be over $10. The terms I have offered are fair and liberal, no fair-minded person can say they are not, and I will not under any circumstances deviate from them.

Will you, after these plain and truthful statements, continue to suffer and risk your life by wearing an old style, imperfect truss? Dare you go without one knowing you are daily growing worse, and that within a short time you will become a total wreck? Dare you lay this aside before you give it a trial, which costs you nothing if you are not satisfied? Do you think it is a humbug? If we were frauds we would not ask such a small sum with the order; we would ask $5.00 or $10.00. A fraud never expects a second order, so they get all the first.

We can fit an infant, or a man or woman weighing 300 lbs. Fleshy ladies having navel ruptures will find it a great blessing. No hot bands around you. It is the only truss that can be worn by women and be clean and comfortable. Ruptured women who are pregnant can wear it and avoid many hours and days of misery. Don't put off ordering it. Do it today; tomorrow may be too late. What more need be said to convince you? We warrant A PERFECT FIT IN EVERY CASE.

SEE THE TESTIMONIALS Be sure to fill out the two blanks. The truss fits all kinds of ruptures. In closing will say I have cured many who have had bad ruptures and can cure you if you will only let me. I can be the means of doing you much good, and hope to hear from you in the near future. If you wish the names of people in your own state who endorse our method, send postage and we will send you their names.

MY GUARANTEE The perfect confidence I have in my truss, and the knowledge I have from actual experience of its curing properties enables me to guarantee every truss. Your rupture may be small, or it may be one that only at times gives you little pain or trouble. Did you ever know a rupture that did not from month to month grow worse? Let me say right here that there is nothing so dangerous as a rupture. Nothing keeps a man or woman so near death, nothing causes so much trouble or the cause of so many surgical operations. The ways of Providence are wonderful. This advertisement may be one of its methods of warning, coming to you unawares, which if neglected means your death. Don't be deceived or have your mind changed by some one who has trusses for sale or who gets a commission by getting a truss for you. They will lose the money, so they will say, "Don't send for the Surehold Truss; it is so cheap it can't be good," and then they will offer to sell you something costing $5.00 and upwards, and say, "This is good because we ask a big price for it." The fact is they make so few sales that when they do find a customer they charge enough to keep themselves going until they get another victim to fleece. Just say to such people that the Surehold Truss is not sold, it is only loaned, and just as soon as you are cured I get the truss back and $4.00 more. I have thousands of patients, so it pays me. Ask others to let you have their goods on the same terms as I do, and I will warrant you will get some flimsy excuse.

A MAN CURED WHILE HE WORKED. DEAR SIR: I cannot find words to express my thanks. I tried many kinds and never one that would hold me. The Surehold holds me in all places and at all kinds of work, and I have never lost a day's time. I am cured entirely and have not had to wear a truss for many weeks. I have worked hard shoveling and wheeling coal; traveling up and down stairs at my work as watchman. Some nights I have put in more than a ton of coal. G. S. HOSLEY, Norwood, Mass. Granite St.

A WOMAN CURED AFTER 18 YEARS OF SUFFERING. AGE 61. DEAR SIR: I cannot say enough in favor of your truss. Please accept my most sincere thanks for the benefit I have received. I have not worn a truss for three months now. I had previously worn a truss day and night for over 18 years. I have worked hard all the fall drying fruit and doing the duties of the household. I heartily wish that every man, woman or child who has suffered as I did would be convinced that your truss will cure rupture. I wish you long life and prosperity and an eternal life in the future. Yours truly, MARTHA DAVIS, Diamond, Ark.

A BOY CURED MY BOY. SIR: Your truss has cured my boy when no other would, in the time you said it would. I am more than thankful to you. Every word you said was true. No need of any child suffering when they can be cured so easily.

MRS. MARY YARNELL, Middleton, Ohio.

☞ The above are only samples. We could print more testimonials than this paper could hold.

POSTMASTER I have examined the letters from which these testimonials were taken and guarantee the same to be genuine. I was also shown a great many other testimonials which speak in the highest terms of the Surehold Truss. CHAS. B. WOODMAN.

MAYOR WESTBROOK, ME. This is to certify that I am personally acquainted with Mr. Alexander Speirs, and consider him responsible for any contracts he may make, and strictly reliable. KING S. RAYMOND, (Mayor).

REFERENCE Any Bank, Mercantile Agency, Postmaster, Express Co., City Official, and the Publishers of this paper.

Men and women use the same measure blank.

SPECIAL ORDER BLANK.

ALEXANDER SPEIRS—DEAR SIR:—FIND ENCLOSED MY MEASURES, ALSO $1.40 AS A GUARANTEE, FOR ONE SINGLE SUREHOLD TRUSS (SEND $2.50 FOR DOUBLE TRUSS) TO BE SENT BY MAIL, ALL CHARGES PREPAID. WHEN CURED OF MY RUPTURE I PROMISE TO PAY $4.00 MORE AND RETURN THE TRUSS YOU SEND ME.

NAME .....

STREET, OR P. O. BOX IF YOU HAVE ONE .....

POST OFFICE .....

COUNTY ..... STATE .....



MEASURE BLANK.

1. How many inches do you measure around the body on a line with the rupture?
2. Are you ruptured on right side, left side, both sides, or navel?
3. About how large is the rupture?
4. How near the scrotum is it?
5. Does it descend into the scrotum?
6. Can you reduce or return it easily?
7. What is your height?
8. What is your weight?
9. What is your occupation?
10. How long have you been ruptured?
11. Mark as near as possible on picture where your rupture is.

State you saw this ad. in COMFORT.

ALEX. SPEIRS, Westbrook, Maine.

DO NOT SEND US ANY MONEY.



LOOK This **Magnificent Solid Gold**-plated Bracelet, **with your initial engraved on** free. Don't send any money—just your name and address. We will send you postpaid 10 Large, Handsome Stamped Doylies; different designs. Sell them to your friends at 10 cents each. Send us the $1.00 and we will send you by return mail your handsome initialed Bracelet. **FREE**

50 STERLING JEWELRY CO., Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

LADIES, Send to **Mrs. H.C.Fretter**, Detroit, Mich., for free package **ORANGE LILY**. Cures all female diseases.

DELICIOUS Champagne Cider for 5c. Per Gallon. Recipe 15c. BOX 481, Mansfield, Mass.

MARRY NEW PLAN of correspondence. Free. DIRECTORY CO., Marshall, Mich

Marriage PAPER FREE, many very rich. EASTERN AGENCY 54, Bridgeport, Ct.

ASTROLOGY. To prove the correctness of my Astrological System, I will give you my personal attention and send you FREE, a personal type-written Horoscope of your life. Send your date of birth & 2c. stamp for postage. PROF. H. EDISON, Astrologer, T, Binghamton, N. Y.

Get Married 8,000 Ladies are VERY ANXIOUS TO MARRY. Many very beautiful and wealthy. Send 2 cts. for big list of ladies and gents, with full description and residence. Satisfaction guaranteed. UNION CORRESPONDING CLUB, Box 608, AUSTIN, ILLS.

LEARN MAGNETIC HEALING

Ladies or gentlemen. It will not you $20 to $30 per day. Address Prof. W. D. Jones & Son, Bloomington, Ills.

ASTHMA Instant relief and positive cure. Sample mailed free to any sufferer. F. G. KINSMAN, M. D., Box 727, Augusta, Maine.

WE ARE Searching for Sufferers

YOU MAY NOT FEEL SICK

BUT ALL HANDS POINT TO THE FACT YOU ARE NOT WELL AND WHETHER YOU BE MAN OR WOMAN YOU WILL SOON TAKE ON THIS AGONIZED LOOK.

WE CAN HELP YOU.



YOU DON'T NEED MEDICINE.

But you say you feel generally miserable or suffer with a thousand and one indescribable bad feelings, both mental and physical? Among them low spirits, nervousness, weariness, lifelessness, weakness, dizziness feelings of fullness or bloating after eating, or sense of "goneness" or emptiness of stomach in morning, flesh soft and lacking firmness, headache, blurring of eyesight, specks floating before the eyes, nervous irritability, poor memory, chilliness, alternating with hot flushes, lassitude, throbbing, gurgling, or rumbling sensations in bowels, with heat and nipping pains occasionally, palpitation of heart, short breath on exertion, slow circulation of blood. Don't your hands and feet become cold and clammy, do you HAWK AND SPIT and expectorate greenish colored matter? IS your urine scanty or high colored and does it deposit a sediment after standing? You have pain and oppression in chest and back, pain around the loins, aching and weariness of the lower limbs, drowsiness after meals, but nervous wakefulness at night, languor in the morning and a constant feeling of dread as if something awful was about to happen.



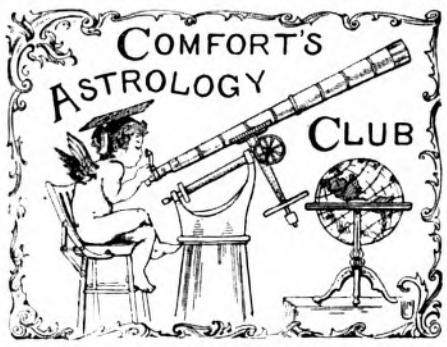
There Is Help for You. You Can Yet Be Happy.

I have an appliance. The only way to introduce it is to let you try it FREE. You will tell others if it helps you. It is perfectly harmless. Send us your name we are looking for real sufferers and knowing it will do you good you can cure yourself without trouble or expense. This article is perfectly safe and reliable, can be worn day and night, all of the time or part of the time and in any place or spot on the body that feels sick or shows pain—it is most marvelous acting and is the greatest God-send you ever heard of. After you use it and you feel its power you will say $25 would not have prevented me from sending for it. It acts just as well on man or woman.

THE ONLY CONDITIONS.

We send one all charges paid. It is Medical and we are obliged to put on Revenue stamps. Therefore as we furnish them entirely free we simply ask you to send us TEN CENTS for mailing, etc. We trust to your honor to tell others about the cure and know many will be sold thereby. We do not ask you to send any more money unless you want others to sell at a profit after you try it. Address,

G. O. COMPANY, Box 654, Augusta, Maine



CONDUCTED BY REGULUS.



FEBRUARY looks to the LUNATION or new moon which occurs in the evening of the 30th of January, this year, at about quarter past 8 o'clock, for its trestle-board of indications of public events for the month. A figure erected to the time of that new moon shows the 17th degree of Virgo rising and the 15th degree of Gemini culminating. The conjoined luminaries are in the 5th house of the figure within a few degrees of Mars and Mercury also in the 5th house. Jupiter and Herschel are together in Sagittarius in the 3rd house close to the cusp of the 4th; Saturn stands in the 4th and Venus is close to the cusp of the 7th.

Mercury ruler of the Ascending and culminating signs is ruler of the figure. He is near the place of the lunation and near to Mars and the support of Jupiter and Herschel. The activity of Mars is marked. This coupled with the benevolent rays from the great benefic Jupiter and from Herschel shows that "*Merchants, tradesmen, and all such as give their minds to Learning, Arts, and Sciences shall have a successful and prosperous season*" during February. Mars indicates unusual activity in army movements by successes in all directions. The moon, ruler of the 11th and so near to Mars the author of strife and contention, shows wordy warfare in Congress where sharp criticisms of the Administration are indulged in, but the overwhelming force of Jupiter in his own house and Herschel the disposer of Mars, both in favorable aspect to the ruler of the figure and the conjoined luminaries, indicates the irresistible onward march of the country to its high station in its great race among the nations of the world. Trade continues to improve and the country grows more and more prosperous.

Venus so near the cusp of the 7th house indicates an increase in the marriage rates and shows marriage of some lady high in station, such as engages the attention if not adverse criticism of the public in a marked degree.

Saturn in the 4th indicates some unusually cold weather in February.

The Lunation falling in the 5th house with Mars cautions us to have extraordinary care of children for the month, for avoidance, as much as possible, of some eruptive trouble which threatens to assume the proportions of an epidemic. Falling in Aquarius it is likely to develop itself as a blood trouble and affect the heart and throat. In all eruptive troubles which visit us, whether of the nature of measles, scarlet fever, or otherwise, let parents be particularly watchful of the throats of the little ones and promptly arrest any dangerous symptoms that develop. Fortunately the benevolent influence of Jupiter intervenes to help overcome a great part of the mischief. There will be considerable increase of mortality among adults from complications of heart troubles, pleurisy, and troubles with the urinary system.

CELESTIAL CALENDAR FOR FEBRUARY, 1900.

FEBRUARY. 1—Thursday. Give particular attention to the elegant pursuits and real estate matters during the early hours of this day when also have dental work done; urge all transactions relative to furnishings and decoration, also architectural work and engagements; but as the noon is passed be vigilant of financial matters; live within thy means and purchase only the needful things that can not be bought under more satisfactory conditions; be sure not to have transactions with banks, government authorities or railways or other large corporate bodies.

2—Friday. One of the excellent days of the month for the elegant occupations and polite arts, until the late afternoon hours; use the forenoon for commercial transactions pertaining to wearing apparel and all fancy and ornamental goods; the later hours are fractious and less fortunate for any important dealings when also the tongue may need a check and the mental impulses require moderation; correspondence then is likely to be unsatisfactory and estimates and accounts are more inclined to error.

3—Saturday. A superior day for the vigorous prosecution of all general business. REGULUS especially advises his friends to seize this time for crowding the principal undertakings in life. It is especially recommended for the beginning of journeys, milling operations, mental working and the extensive manufacture or purchase or sale of machinery, and particular preference should be given to all business connected with the mechanical and ingenious pursuits, also dealings with druggists, chemists, tanners and mechanics generally; buy goods for trade; open new stores, etc. If it be the anniversary of thy birthday then these suggestions apply with even greater force and thou mayst reckon with much more than the ordinary assurance, upon many prosperous weeks in the immediate future. The same is true, in great measure, of persons born about the 3rd of April, or 4th of October, of past years. Admonitory suggestions are invited for persons born about the 1st of May, 3rd of August, or 2d of November, of past years; and these persons need to be unusually discreet and patient under any kind of excitement, especially in connection with any literary work or any commercial engagements now being entered into.

4—Sunday. Thy pastor's discourse, if extemporaneous, is likely on this day to contain many peculiar sentiments and many radical ideas; the aged are pleasantly disposed and the oddities and curiosities of life engage the thoughts.

5—Monday. This day is favorable in the forenoon hours for hiring or purchasing houses or lands and dealing with miners, tinners, plumbers, brickmakers, and the laboring classes particularly; the elegant pursuits are not favored in the afternoon, when social engagements prove less satisfactory than usual.

6—Tuesday. An evil forenoon, when form no hasty conclusions in business; litigation and contention are likely to interfere seriously with the happy outcome of affairs of magnitude or importance at this time begun; be not rash in thought or act and scrutinize carefully all business enterprises now presenting themselves; do not seek promotion in public positions nor offend thine employer; be cautious in the use of the pen and do not be disappointed if thy literary labors are disappointing; the evening is peculiarly favorable for social, musical and dramatical entertainments; and the afternoon is recommended for engagements relating to the artistic and decorative in life.

7—Wednesday. Do not depend on this day and be very prudent in all thine acts; thy pecuniary transactions are more likely to result in loss than gain; hold fast the purse-strings.

8—Thursday. Affairs commenced at this time will prosper and REGULUS advises his friends to engage in the active prosecution of their several callings, but particularly those in the strictly intellectual pursuits in life; begin important work of all kind whether in mechanism, trade or the fine arts; have surgical operations performed and experiment in chemistry; let judges weigh testimony and decide important cases and lawyers take initiatory steps and urge proceedings in litigation of magnitude.

9—Friday. Defer matters of much importance in the artistic pursuits; it is a poor day to replenish thy stock of artistic, fancy, or decorative goods or to make any engagements in dramatic matters; be sure and avoid beginning anything concerned with houses or lands and do not be surprised if the afternoon baffles and disappoints thee grievously.

10—Saturday. The morning hours are adverse for the literary pursuits, but as the forenoon advances let all honorable undertakings be vigorously urged; buy goods for trade; have money transactions of consequence; deal with judges, bankers, lawyers, and persons in the ecclesiastical callings.

11—Sunday. There is little of promise for this day, especially of assistance to the clergy, those connected with religion or for matters of an ecclesiastical nature.

12—Monday. Choose this day for seeking audience with the ladies or for leading thy fair one to the altar; purchase wearing apparel or goods for decoration or dress; engage with thy tailor, dressmaker or milliner and do all things requiring the exercise of special taste; let the musician and the landscape painter improve the moments of this day to their utmost; purchase goods for trade and crowd all important undertakings; literary engagements should be urged and the mind be vigorously used in forwarding all enterprises; do correspondence of moment; hire help, and travel.

13—Tuesday. The early morning hours are the best for dealing with government officers, railway officials, and superintendents of public works also for the study or investigation of uncommon subjects; the latter half of the day is evil and disappointing when thou shouldst avoid all conditions of violence or excitement, keeping a careful eye out against hurts, burns and all inflammatory troubles; be not careless with firearms nor in handling inflammables.

14—Wednesday. Be not rash in word or act; travel as little as possible and have unusual care in using the pen; annoyances in correspondence and through writings will come; seek no advantage at the hands of officers of state, merchants, travelers, teachers or otherwise ingenious persons; thieves are likely to be unusually active in the 24 hours ending at noon of this day; and there are likely to be some very destructive fires in these passing days as well as some bad accidents from machinery and explosives, the passing time is peculiarly contentious and calls for patience and deliberation in thine important engagements.

15—Thursday. See that thy means do not "take to themselves wings" in the forenoon of this day; avoid the money lender and let thy purchases be governed by thine actual needs rather than for profit or money advantages.

16—Friday. The first half of this day favors the light and elegant occupations and gives success to the efforts of the musician, artist and decorator; let architectural matters engage the mind and make engagements pertaining to building houses or improvement of lands.

17—Saturday. Conditions on this day specially discourage the making of contracts about lands or houses and but little if any profit need be expected from dealings with contractors, shipwrights, plumbers, farmers, miners and generally those engaged in the dirty and laborious avocations; there are likely to be some serious accidents from poisons and suicides from poisoning will be more than ordinarily frequent in these middle days of February; the fair sex are unfavorably affected and quarrels and discord among lovers will be responsible for more than usual unhappiness just at this time; do not take this day for buying goods of an artistic or decorative character nor for inaugurating any new undertaking.

18—Sunday. One of the promising Sabbath days of the month, particularly conducive to the success of pulpit efforts; the religious discourse will be earnest and eloquent.

19—Monday. Unusual circumspection is advised in thine undertakings with the pen on this day; have extreme care if engaged in any speculative ventures; some bad losses occur in business circles and frauds and defalcations are unearthed in these passing days; do not sign any money obligation; unpleasant features in correspondence or in accounts develop at this time and care in these repects is urged.

20—Tuesday. Vigorously prosecute all business on this day, giving preference, if any, to the forenoon for buying, selling, or improving real estate; for architectural designs and labors and making engagements with the laboring classes; use the afternoon for thy literary work and for transactions with the intellectual classes; travel, study, and enter upon educational work of all kinds, provided thy nativity also favors in that direction.

21—Wednesday. Be not over-sensitive or become involved in unpleasant controversies nor have dealings with persons in the mechanical callings or manufacturing enterprises; keep a check upon thy temper and be deliberate in word and act; deal with persons of wealth and high in station in the evening.

22—Thursday. A day of very indifferent promises when thou shouldst not ask favors of superiors, persons in authority or public officers; the afternoon promises many petty annoyances and disappointments.

23—Friday. This day has but little to recommend it and the forenoon should be specially avoided for the execution of deeds or writings nor should the judgment be too implicitly relied upon unless the nativity is particularly promising of good just at this time; do not travel or concern thyself with writings pertaining to patents, copyrights, or trademarks; as the noon is passed give thy best energies to business.

24—Saturday. Conditions on this day are baffling and disappointing and matters of much moment are better deferred until a more favorable time; have no dealings with thy landlord nor with contractors, plumbers, miners, farmers, nor with any engaged in the dirty occupations.

25—Sunday. Peculiar features of religious doctrine are disclosed on this day and the middle hours are unfortunate for musical or artistic conversations or executions; avoid the fair sex and beware of unusual indulgencies of the palate or appetite; the evening hours are superior for mental efforts and are recommended for literary matters.

26—Monday. The early hours are poor and indicate necessity for care of the purse, that extravagant expenditures are not made or needless losses suffered; the day after ten o'clock should be fully employed.

27—Tuesday. A very favorable day inviting travel, business activity and enterprise; buy goods for trade; speculate if thy nativity be also fairly favorable; deal with banks and persons of wealth and refinement.

28—Wednesday. Be prompt to employ the favoring conditions of this day in the pursuit of art, music, and for all elegant avocations; deal in fancy goods, purchase wearing apparel and articles of adornment and seek audience with the fair sex; look out for quarrels and be not oversensitive or too aggressive in the afternoon.

DISCOVERED BY A WOMAN.

I have discovered a positive cure for all female diseases and the piles. It never fails to cure any of the various diseases peculiar to women, such as leucorrhœa, displacements, ulceration, granulation, etc., or the piles from any cause or in either sex. I will gladly mail a box of this wonderful medicine free to every sufferer. Mrs. C. B. MILLER, Box 106, Kokomo, Ind.

LADIES A 50c BOX FREE

That every invalid lady may learn how quickly she may be cured of uterine troubles, displacements, painful periods, leucorrhoea, etc. I promise to send by return mail in sealed plain package to any lady who will write for it a 50 cent box of a simple home remedy that cured me after years of suffering. There is no charge whatever. Write to-day for yourself or for your friend.

Address Mrs. L. Hudnut, 48 A, South Bend, Ind.

TRIAL Treatment FREE Mrs. May Hawkins,

DRINK HABIT cured secretly.

Write for booklet on the Drink Habit and its POSITIVE CURE. L.U. 181, Grand Rapids, Mich.

I USED IT

A HANDSOME MUSTACHE

or fine beard grown on the smoothest face in 3 weeks, or money refunded. Baldness cured at once. Our TURKISH HAIR GROWER does it. We warrant every package. Avoid dangerous humbugs, get the genuine direct, 25 cents, 3 for 50c. by mail. Address, TREMONT MAN'F'G CO., Sta. A, BOSTON, MASS.

My Mamma Wants to Tell You Something is the title of a book that should be read by all expectant mothers; it tells how she can find relief from all the ills incident to motherhood and secure health for both mother and child, sent free by Dr. J. H. DYE MED. INSTITUTE, Buffalo, N.Y.

BE A CLAIRVOYANT, By reading minds you know friends and enemies, by reading your future prepare for the opportunity that comes in every human life; in this way wealth, love and position is gained. Every person born into the world can be a Clairvoyant—the power lies dormant in them. Our book "Clairvoyancy Revealed," Free, also full information by addressing INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF CLAIRVOYANCY. NEVADA. MO.

CANCER IS CURABLE Write for Free Book of HOME TREATMENT. No Knife, Plaster or Pain. C. F. MASON MEDICAL CO., 121 W. 42d St., New York.

PERFECT MANHOOD



Prof. Jules Laborde's Marvelous French Preparation of

"CALTHOS"

For Lost Manhood.

Full 5 Days' Treatment SENT FREE By Sealed Mail.

NO C. O. D. OR DEPOSIT SCHEME.

Every person who is a sufferer from nervous diseases should write the Von Mohl Co., Cincinnati, Ohio, at once, and accept their offer of a five days' trial treatment free of charge. This is no C. O. D. or DEPOSIT scheme but a liberal proposition made to unfortunate sufferers by this long-established concern, which is the largest importer of specifics for nervous and sexual diseases in the world.

The Von Mohl Co. has the sole American rights for Prof. Laborde's French preparation of "Calthos," the only remedy known to advanced medical science that will positively cure nervous debility. This remedy has for years been used as a specific in the French and German armies, and since its introduction into the United States has cured many thousands of sufferers, and the remarkable success of the remedy in Europe has been repeated in this country.

In order to place this wonderful treatment in the hands of every person who suffers the mental and physical anguish of sexual weakness, The Von Mohl Co., has decided to send a free trial treatment to all who write at once. The remedy is sent by mail in a plain package, and there is no publicity in receiving it or taking it. Accompanying the medicine there is a full treatise in plain language for you to read. Take the medicine privately with perfect safety, and a sure cure is guaranteed.

Lost vitality creeps upon men unawares. Do not deceive yourself or remain in ignorance while you are being dragged down by this insidious disease. No matter what the cause may be, whether early abuses, excesses or overwork and business cares, the results are the same—premature loss of strength and memory, emissions, impotency, varicocele and shrunken parts. This specific remedy will cure you at any stage before epilepsy results, with ensuing consumption and insanity. "Calthos" goes directly to the seat of the trouble, no matter of how long standing, and the patient feels the benefit of the first day's treatment. In five days the medicines sent free will make you feel like a new man.

The Von Mohl Co. often receives the most astonishing testimonials from persons who have taken only five days' treatment. They have thousands of testimonials from those who have been permanently cured after having been given up by doctors, misled and ruined in health by disreputable medical schemers, and when they had given up their last hope for health and happiness. No sensible person will permit his name to be used for a testimonial as an admission that he had any of the diseases for which the preparation of "Calthos" is a specific cure. Some irresponsible advertisers are using "made-up" testimonials, but the Von Mohl Co. invariably declines to make public the names or correspondence of any patients who have been cured by "Calthos."

Five days' treatment will be placed in your hands free of cost, and you are earnestly urged for your own sake to send for it without delay. Write to day and send your address. It is not necessary to give embarrassing details of your symptons. The book accompanying the five days' treatment will enable you to take the medicine in private and treat yourself successfully at home. It costs nothing to try this remedy. It may cost you a great deal more to let this offer go by. Write today. Address THE VON MOHL CO. 935 B, CINCINNATI, OHIO. Largest Importers of Standard Preparations in the United States.

RUPTURE Sure Cure at home; at a small cost. No operation, pain, danger or detention from work. No return of Rupture or further use for Trusses. A complete radical cure to all (old or young) easy to use, thousands cured, book free (sealed). DR. W. S. RICE, BOX C, ADAMS, N. Y.

PILES ELECTROBOLE gives instant relief. Final cure in a few days, never returns; no purge, no salve, no knife. Remedy mailed Free. Address J. H. REEVES, Box 695, New York, N. Y.

OPIUM HABIT AND **MORPHINE** Cured at home. Trial Free. No pain. Comp. Oxygen Ass'n, Fort Wayne, Ind.

CLAIRVOYANCE free. If sick, Send Now—your name, age, sex, lock of hair, and 2 stamps, to DR. D. HINKLY, X 10, Grand Rapids, Mich.

MORPHINE Free Trial Treatment for Morphine, Opium or other drug habit. Painless, permanent Home Cure. Contains great vital principal lacking in all others. Confidential. St Paul Association, 48 Van Buren St., Chicago.

Women Made **Beautiful**



by VESTRO. Developes the bust 6 inches, fills all hollow places, adds grace, curve and beauty to the neck; softens and clears the skin. Beautiful women everywhere owe their superb figure and matchless loveliness to Vestro. Harmless, permanent. NEVER FAILS. Every lady should have this unrivalled developer. Adds charm and attraction to plainest women. Full particulars, photos, testimonials, etc., sealed for two cent stamp. Address AURUM MEDICINE CO. Dept. A. N 55 State St. Chicago.

Mothers I can cure your children of incontinence of urine. Sample FREE. Address F. E. MAY, M. D., Bloomington, Ill.

OPIUM and **Liquor Habit** cured in 10 to 20 days. No pay till cured. Write DR. J. L. STEPHENS CO. Dept. C1, Lebanon, Ohio.

PILES Absolutely cured. Never to return. A Boon to Sufferers. Acts like Magic. Trial box MAILED FREE. Address Dr. E.M.Botot, Box 978, Augusta, Me.

YOUR LIFE FORETOLD Advice on all affairs. WRITTEN PREDICTION of your life. Send date of birth, sex, lock of hair, 10 cents. Prof. G. O. Ruppert, Boston, Mass.

A BIG OFFER 50c. MADE IN A MINUTE! If you will hang up in the P. O., or some public place, the two show bills that we send, we will give you a 50c. cert., and send it in advance with samples and bills. This will trouble you about one minute, and then if you want to work on salary at $50 or $100 per month, let us know. We pay in advance. GIANT OXIE CO., 125 Willow St., Augusta, Me.

BLOOD POISON

HAVE YOU Sore throat, Pimples, Copper Colored Spots, Aches, Old Sores, Ulcers in Mouth, Hair-Falling? Write COOK REMEDY CO., 1731 Masonic Temple, Chicago Ill., for proofs of cures. Capital, $500,000. Worst cases cured 15 to 35 days. 100-page book free.

A Complete Outfit of 44 Tools FREE

GREATEST MONEY MAKER AND MONEY SAVER EVER SEEN: NEEDED IN EVERY HOUSE IN THE WORLD.

Hundreds of dollars are wasted every year in paying for repairs which could be done by you just as well as by the person you hire. "Yes," you will say, "I could do this work if I only had the tools." You have to hire the plumber or cobbler and pay him for his time while you stand around and look on, watching him do the work which you could do as well as he, but it is always that you have no tools. We have put together the best kit of tools for repairing which was ever seen, and we will sell the entire outfit for less than half the money for which you could buy it at any store. The outfit consists of **forty-four first-class tools**, as shown in the above cut, viz: **1 iron last for men's work; 1 iron last for boy's work; 1 iron last for women's work; 1 iron last for children's work; 1 iron stand for lasts; 1 shoehammer; 1 shoeknife; 1 peg awl handle; 1 peg awl; 1 wrench for peg awl handle; 1 sewing awl handle; 1 sewing awl; 1 stabbing awl handle; 1 stabbing awl; 1 bottle leather cement; 1 bottle rubber cement; 1 bunch bristles; 1 ball shoe thread; 1 ball shoe wax; 1 pkg clinch nails, 4-8 in.; 1 pkg clinch nails 5-8 in.; 1 pkg clinch nails, 6-8 in.; 1 pkg. heel nails; 4 prs. heel plates, assorted sizes; 6 harness needles; 1 harness and saw clamp; 1 box slotted rivets, assorted sizes; 1 rivet set for same; 1 harness and belt punch; 1 soldering iron, ready for use; 1 handle for same; 1 bar solder; 1 bar resin; 1 bottle soldering fluid; 1 copy directions for halfsoling, etc., 1 copy directions for soldering** all securely packed, together with directions for use, in neat case. These tools bought at a hardware store separately **would cost between $7.00 and $9.00.** You can repair boots and shoes, tap and heel them, mend your harness or make a new one, mend all kinds of tinware, repair pumps, plumbing and similar work and do all kinds of leather work about carriages, etc., as well as repair and mend rubber boots, rubbers, overshoes, and all kinds of rubber made articles. The clamp is used for mending harnesses and filing saws. Has a coil spring and is made of iron. **You can easily save five times the cost of the outfit in six months** and make a heap of money doing little repairs for your neighbors and others. "A stitch in time saves nine," and if you have these tools in your house you can make repairs and save a great deal of money which you would pay if you let a break go or hired a man to do your repairing work for you. Every one of these tools are **full sized, practical, neat** and **cheap**. It is the only complete outfit in the market and thousands have been sold in past years for $3 when the outfit contained but about half as many smaller articles to people living in the country and small towns as well as the city. This repairing outfit, weighing 20 lbs. will be sent by freight complete as above described for **only $1.62** which includes a 6 months' trial subscription to this paper.

GREAT PREMIUM OFFER.—If you will get up a club of 6 yearly trial subscribers to this paper at the special price of 25 cents each, we will send you one of these repairing outfits as a present to you.

NOTICE TO AGENTS.

A Profitable Business

FOR MEN AND WOMEN WHO ARE

WILLING TO WORK.

$3.00 a Day Sure.

R READER:

you are out of work, or are not satisfied with your present ness and would like to make more money, it will be to your rest to read this notice. We do not offer you a chance to a fortune without work, but we do offer you an opportun- make money much faster than you can make it at any kind of work. The country is flooded with circulars offer- ances to make money at the rate of from twenty to fifty a day; such offers are not business-like, and all agents mount to anything are disgusted with such circulars, and of them are thrown aside without being read. If you are ig for an opportunity to make twenty to fifty dollars a you might as well throw this notice aside also; but if you d like to engage in a good paying business, you will do to read this notice through carefully. Then you can use r own judgment as to whether our offer is a reasonable one ot.

e guarantee that anyone who is willing to work can make n $3 to $5 a day at this business. We admit that $3 to $5 a is not much of an inducement when compared to the state- nts made by some firms, who offer all the way from $20 to a day for selling various articles. We do not make you such wing promises, but what we do offer you has the advantage g being true. We might offer agents a sure chance of making from $20 to $50 a day, but the chances are that anyone who would believe such unreasonable nonsense would not know enough to earn his board at any kind of business. That is not the kind of agents we are in quest of; we want reliable agents with common sense, who are willing to work for good pay, and not those who are looking for an opportunity to make a fortune without work. We believe the only way to get such agents and keep them, is to furnish them with a good thing to sell, a real genuine bargain, and then to tell them the exact truth about the business. We have a large number of agents at work, and we know for a certainty what working agents can make. We know that $3 a day is the very lowest; most of our agents are averaging $4 and $5 a day, and often some of them make a good deal more than that. We have several agents who are clear- ing from $7 to $10 a day. But these are great workers operating in the best territory, and, of course, everyone cannot do as well, but it is easy for anyone to make, at the very least, $3 a day above all expenses in any territory. We haven't a single working agent who is clearing, on an average, less than $3 a day. Now, be sure that you understand us: We don't say that lazy, shiftless agents will make $3 a day, for they can't do it at this or any other business, but what we do say is that agents who are willing to work, not too hard, but the same as they would expect to work at any other business, can easily clear $3 a day above all expenses, in any territory, and if they have good territory to work in they can make anywhere from $5 to $7, and even $10 a day. If you want a good chance to work and get good pay for it, you will find it to your interest to read this notice through carefully.

The articles which we have for you to sell are a line of forks, spoons, etc., made of a new metal called "Brazil Silver." We will describe this new line of goods the best we can, then you can judge for yourself whether we are offering you a good chance to make money or not.

BRAZIL SILVER.

Warranted for Twenty-five Years.

Brazil Silver is believed to be the very best metal in existence for the manufacture of forks and spoons; it has all the lustre and brilliancy of burnished coin silver, and is much harder and more durable, in fact, it is impossible to wear it out. It is absolutely indestructible. The goods made of this metal are the same all the way through, there being no plating to wear off they will remain as good as new for any length of time. For all practical purposes in the manufacture of table ware this Brazil Silver is superior to coin silver. It is as lustrous and as pure as coin silver, and being much harder it will wear even longer than silver; in fact it is absolutely impossible to wear it out. It will wear forever. As there is no plating to wear off, the metal being the same all the way through, it stands to reason that you can't wear it out. Our confidence in the metal is so great that we guarantee it to wear twenty-five years. We give a guarantee signed by the company warranting the goods to wear and to give perfect satisfaction for twenty-five years. We are an old, strong and thoroughly established firm with ample capital to carry on our business and make our guaranty as good as the Bank of England. In selling these goods an agent can recommend them with the greatest of confidence, for they are just as represented, absolutely indestructible. And, furthermore, our guarantee warranting the goods to give satisfaction for twenty-five years, clears the agent from all responsibility in the matter; for if any article fails to give perfect satisfaction, no matter how long it has been in use, we hold ourselves ready to refund the money paid for the article. These goods are the same metal all the way through; they will never wear out. They always wear white and bright. We give a guarantee signed by the company, warranting every piece of Brazil Silver to wear twenty-five years. You can sell these goods to your best friends with perfect confidence, for every sale is as much a benefit to your customer as to yourself.

Working with goods that are warranted to wear and give satisfaction for so long a time as twenty-five years, and by a Company, too, whose capital is sufficiently large to make their guarantee good for almost any amount, is an advantage which no other firm is prepared to offer. If you want to make money fast now is the time to do it. If you think that five-dollar bills are good things to have, now is the time to get them. Never in the history of the agency business have agents had as good a chance to make money rapidly, and it is reasonably sure that they will never have another chance like it.

It is easy to make from $3 to $5 a day at this business.

All Marked with Initial Letters, Without any Extra Cost.

Among all classes there has always been a strong desire to have their table ware marked with their initial letter, but on account of the heavy expense of having it marked only a very few have been able to afford it. Heretofore the cost of artistically marking table ware has been even greater than the cost of the goods; now, by our new methods, we are able to offer these elegant Brazil Silver goods, all marked with any initial letter desired in the very highest style of the art, without any extra cost for marking. These Brazil Silver goods, even if unmarked, would be the greatest bargain ever offered the public in table ware, but with the additional and highly desirable feature of being all marked with beautiful and artistic initial letters, these goods are not only great bargains in table ware, but are the greatest bargains of any kind that have ever been offered to the public through any catalogue or in any other way.

The people are always ready enough to buy what they want when it is presented to them in the form of a genuine bargain. Well, here is absolutely the greatest bargain every offered, and the agent who works with it will find that what he has is earnestly desired at nearly every house he visits; it is easy to get orders when you can offer great bargains, that the people really want and can afford.

It is easy to make from $3 to $5 a day at this business.

Table and Dessert Knives.

Our knives are made of the finest tempered cutlery steel and are triple plate, in other words every dozen knives is plated with 12 dwt. of pure silver and hand burnished. Our knives are of the highest grade, fully equal to Rogers' or any knives made. These knives will not wear as long as Brazil Silver goods, but they will wear as long as any knives made. We guarantee them to wear ten years in constant use. If not in constant use they will wear proportionately longer. We give a guarantee, signed by the Company, warranting the knives to wear and to give perfect satisfaction to the purchaser for ten years. As knives are usually used in families they will wear much longer, anywhere from fifteen to twenty years. They are fully equal to Rogers' knives and only cost about two-thirds as much. It may seem strange to some that we can sell so staple an article as silver plated knives at such reduced prices, but we are doing it. It is our way of giving the public good, solid value for their money. We are saving our customers about one-third of the price at which the same grade of knives are sold at the stores and jewelers. Any one who will take the trouble to compare our knives and prices with triple plate 12 dwt. knives sold at the stores and jewelers, will be convinced of the truth of our statements. We are making a profit, of course, but our unequal facilities and immense trade make it possible for us to undersell all competitors, and our customers are getting the benefit of the lowest prices known in the silverware trade. We are not only selling at greatly reduced prices, but we also guarantee every article to be exactly as represented and to give perfect satisfaction to the purchaser, or money refunded.

The First Thing to Do.

If you decide to accept the agency, the first thing to do is to send to us for the agent's case of samples, which is the most complete and perfect case of samples that has ever been prepared for the convenience of agents. Our complete and perfect case of samples is not to be compared with anything that has ever been sent to agents before. It contains the very best and most salable articles in the world. There is nothing in the market that agents can sell as fast and sell as easily and make as much money out of, as they can the goods contained in this splendid case of samples, and everything is arranged and explained so that any agent can't fail to understand just how to go to work to make a great success of the business. As soon as you receive the case of samples you are ready for business. And if you are willing to work you are just as sure to make from $3 to $5 a day as the sun is to rise. Take the case of samples and canvass your territory according to the directions sent with the samples, until you have taken orders for the amount of goods you are prepared to send for. Then order the goods from us and fill your orders, and so continue.

The Magnificent Case of Samples Which We Furnish to Agents.

The case of samples which we furnish to agents contains the following articles:

One Sample Table Knife, retail price, $2.10 per set of six	35	cents each
One Sample Dessert Knife, retail price, $1.95 per set of six	32 1-2	cents each
One Sample Table Fork, retail price, $1.95 per set of six	32 1-2	cents each
One Sample Table Spoon, retail price, $1.95 per set of six	32 1-2	cents each
One Sample Dessert Fork, retail price, $1.80 per set of six	30	cents each
One Sample Dessert Spoon, retail price, $1.80 per set of six	30	cents each
One Sample Tea Spoon, retail price, 95 cents per set of six	15 5-6	cents each
One Sugar Shell	25	cents each
One Butter Knife	25	cents each
One Salt or Pepper Shaker	25	cents each
Total retail value of Samples	$2.83 1-3	

We also send you with the case of samples a large and very beautiful catalogue, illustrating a full line of plated ware, such as Casters, Pickle Cruets, Butter Dishes, Tea Sets, Napkin Rings, etc., etc., etc.

Reckoning the above samples at our lowest retail prices they amount to $2.83 1-3. We furnish them to agents nicely put up in an elegant sample case or roll, for only $1.00, which is $1.83 1-3 less than they amount to at our regular retail prices. This is less than one-half of the retail value of the samples, and much less than they cost us. The sample case or roll, which the samples are put up in costs us nearly as much as we require you to send for the samples, case and all.

Wholesale Prices.

Wholesale or agents' prices and all necessary information for carrying on the business will be furnished with the Outfit. Remember we make everything plain to you about wholesale prices, methods, etc., when we send you the Outfit.

VERY IMPORTANT.

The business we are offering is straightforward and honest in everyway, shape and manner. Our goods are in every respect, just as we represent them to be. The Outfit we furnish our agents is exactly as we represent it, and is always sent the same day the order is received, just as agreed. We have tried to state these facts so they could and would be believed and still we are constantly receiving letters from parties who would like to engage in the business and would do so if they felt sure we were telling the truth and would do as we agree. Many of these doubters have been cheated and are not altogether to blame for doubting; the most of them say they think we are honest, they say we talk honest, but as they have already been swindled they don't feel like risking even **one dollar** and so, although our business is in every respect just as represented, and we always do just as we promise, we lose the services of a great many agents and they lose the benefit they might derive from the business because they are afraid we may not be telling the truth. Now, to overcome this spirit of doubt, we have decided to send Samples to all who wish us to do so, C. O. D., with privilege of examination at the express office. It costs us from twenty-five to forty cents more to send the samples this way, as we have to pay that amount for return charges on the money, but we are willing to do it and so prove to all that are interested that the Outfit and our goods are just what we claim. If after reading this notice you think you would like to give the business a trial, but wish to see the Sample Case before you pay the **one dollar** cut out the following printed form, fill it out and send it to us and we will send the Outfit to your express office prepaid, and give the express agent instructions to let you thoroughly examine the Outfit, then, if you are satisfied that we have told the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, and are also satisfied that you can make money selling our goods, you can pay the express agent **one dollar** and take the Outfit. If you are not satisfied, you can refuse to take it and the agent will return it to us. No other firm has ever made such an offer. We have adopted this plan in order to convince the most skeptical and to secure the services of all the good working agents in the United States.

(CUT OUT THE FOLLOWING FORM.)

Form to be Signed by those who wish us to send the Outfit C. O. D. with Privilege of Examination.

ROYAL MANUFACTURING CO., DETROIT, MICH.:

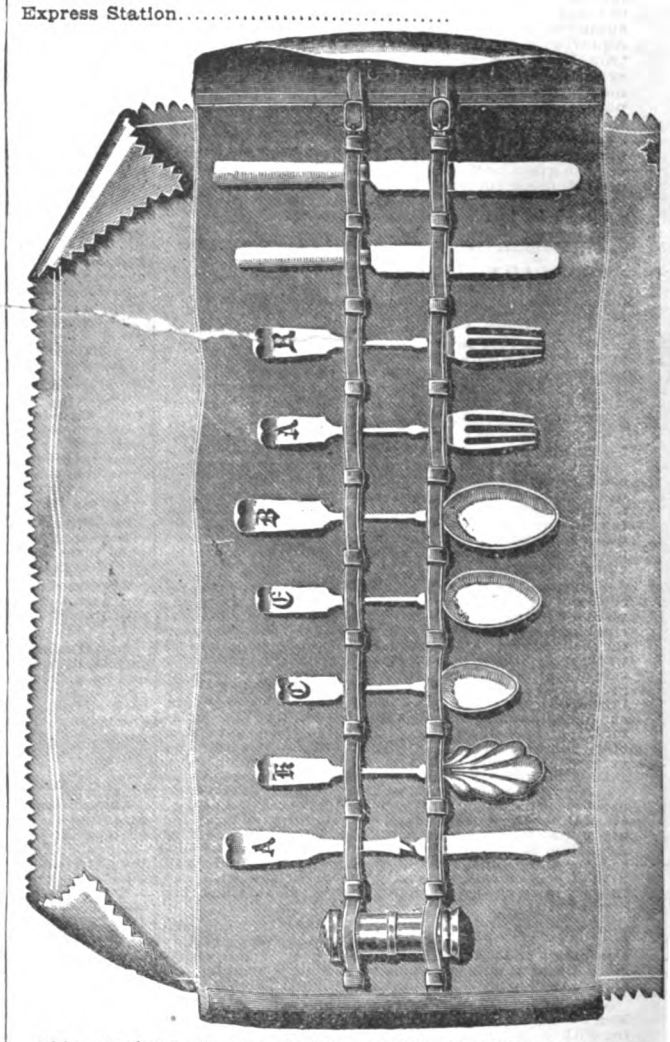
GENTLEMEN—Send the Outfit by Express, C. O. D., with privilege of examination. If I find the Outfit just as you say, I will pay the one dollar required and give the business a fair trial, but if I am not satisfied that the Outfit is as good as you recommend it to be, I shall refuse to receive it. Now, remember, the understanding is that I am not to take the Outfit unless I, myself, am satisfied that it is all right. It must all depend on my own judgment. If I am satisfied, I will take the Outfit; if I am not satisfied, I shall not take it and shall not pay the one dollar If you want to send the Outfit with this understanding, send it along C. O. D., with privilege of examination.

Name..... ....

Postoffice..... ....

County..... .....State..... .....

Express Station.....



This cut shows the Sample Case or Roll, and how the samples appear put up ready for business. The Roll is made of highly finished waterproof canvas, and lined with soft flannel goods. The samples are held in place by strong straps. The whole rolls up and fastens with a leather strap which is firmly fastened to the back of the Roll. This is the most practical arrangement for carrying the samples that could be thought of. When rolled up the Case is compact and easy to carry. When open the samples show to the best possible advantage, making a good impression at first sight. This Sample Roll gives a business-like appearance; it is substantial and handsome, and invariably gives the impression that there is something valuable inside. All are anxious to see what it is you are carrying around with such care. This is of importance as it secures attention and interest at the start. There is nothing like having your samples put up in a business-like shape; it gives a favorable impression from the start, which is half the battle. It is the same in all matters. A store that looks like business attracts customers; while, from a shanty store, you would not, as a rule, expect the best things. The fact is, in the agency business, as in every other business, you must have things fixed up just right if you expect to succeed. Our Brazil Silver Goods are the best that have ever been offered for the price, or anywhere near it. The new feature of being marked with beautiful and artistic initial letters, free of cost, is the greatest popular hit of the times; and the *Sample Roll is arranged so as to show the goods off to the best possible advantage.* Furthermore, we carefully teach every agent just how to take advantage of all these splendid qualities and popular features. Is it any wonder that our agents succeed better than those who are working for other firms?

We Prepay all Express Charges on Everything. We pay the charges on the Outfit and on all goods ordered. Remember, we pay all express charges.

ROYAL MANUFACTURING CO.,

Box 2800, DETROIT, MICH.

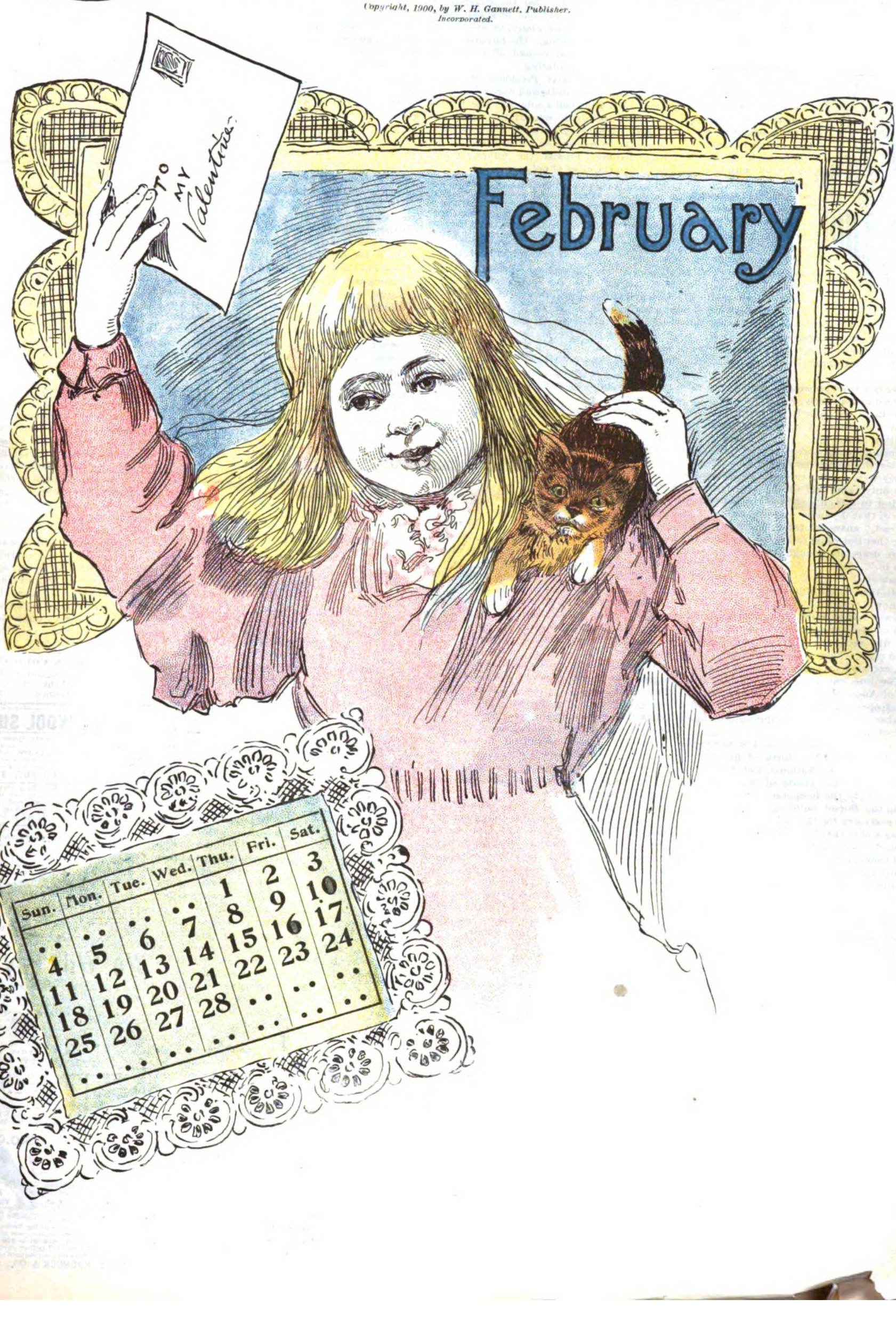
FEBRUARY 1900 PRICE 5 CENTS
VOL XII NO. 4 MN 136

COMFORT

THE KEY TO A MILLION AND A QUARTER HOMES

NEW YORK AUGUSTA, MAINE. BOSTON

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PRIZE WINNERS FOR FEBRUARY.

P. F. Barnes, First Prize.
Robert B. Buckham, Second Prize.
Robert Seaver, Third Prize.
Frederick E. Burnham, Fourth Prize.
E. Bourdon Wilson, Fifth Prize.

LAUGHING GAS.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY P. F. BARNES.

Copyright, 1900, by W. H. Gannett, Publisher.



"WELL, the jig's up!"

Clarence Brownell, just out of Columbia University and fortunate enough to possess a bank president for a father, had rented a room high up in the Equitable building to carry on some of his scientific experiments. He had been interested in what the physicists call the "grating spectrometer", and that very morning the tinners had delivered a long, slender shaft of some fifteen joints of stove-pipe fastened end to end, which he expected to use in connection with a photographic spectrum. This shaft he had mounted on a pivot resting on the window sill, and was sweeping it around like a telescope.

Suddenly a voice apparently right by his side announced despairingly, "Well, the jig's up!" and another voice replied:

"Same here, John. I'm done for. That last speculation ruined me."

Clarence Brownell stared up and down, and only after the voices resumed did he discover that they were coming through the stove pipe.

"The only thing left to do," said the voice belonging to "John", "is to skip, but what's the use of that if you have to skip broke?"

"Correct," answered the other. "I've got a scheme that I'm going to try for my part, and if you're desperate enough to come along I'll let you in."

"Speak on."

"Well, there is the object lesson crossing the street now. See?"

Clarence looked down into Broadway and saw a line of seven clerks crossing the street in single file, each carrying two large leather-covered cases. These were followed by other clerks, carrying packages of books and satchels. The line was headed by the tall, gaunt figure of Andy McDowell, an ex-detective of the metropolitan police system, and guarded on either side by two strapping watchmen armed with rifles.

The young man recognized the procession instantly as the office force of his father's bank, the American National, transferring the valuables from the vaults of the Mercantile Deposit Co., to the temporary quarters of the bank in the Boreel building across the way. Twice every day for the last month, at the beginning and at the close of banking hours, this parade of wealth had crossed the street, halting all traffic, cable-cars and pedestrians. The old bank building had been torn down, and as the Boreel building contained no burglar proof vaults, this arrangement for the care of the funds would continue until the new building was finished.

"There is the chance I mean," said the voice of "John's" fellow conspirator. "Hello! What is the meaning of this stove pipe?" Something hit Clarence in the face. The speaker had tossed the stump of a cigar down the shaft.

"I don't know," said "John". "A ventilator, I suppose. But you don't mean to make a grab for that boodle! Why, man, you would be shot or clubbed to death before you started. Don't you see those fellows sitting in the bank windows? Every one of them has a rifle!"

"Suppose we were to jerk it away from them without showing ourselves."

"Pshaw!" exclaimed the other, contemptuously. "And still," he added, as though an idea began to dawn on him, "it might be——"

"Of course it might! Imagine, for instance, that a chain could be hooked to that string of boxes and connected to the moving cable of the street cars. How long do you think those clerks would hold onto it?"

"That strap wouldn't stand the strain."

"That strap is really a steel chain wrapped in leather. Of course I will jerk it upwards and not along the street. My machinery is all ready but I need a helper and I offer you half! What do you say?"

"When can we do it? I've got to have a hundred thousand dollars by to-morrow noon."

"We can do it this afternoon. They come back at exactly ten minutes after four."

"Very well, I'm with you. I would like to see what machinery you have rigged up."

"Come on. I only expect to be able to catch up the strong boxes that are chained together. It seems a shame to let the other satchels escape. But we ought to secure half a million at any rate."

The listener heard their footsteps across an uncarpeted floor, and then the door slammed. He leaned far out of the window, and looking up in the direction that the stove pipe pointed, tried to locate the room. But a cornice interfered.

"The direction of the pipe ought to help me to find the place," he muttered, dragging it in. An exclamation of disgust escaped him. The pipe was bent nearly at right angles, and from all the indications it afforded the conspirators might have been in any one of a half dozen rooms on the next floor above, or even in the Mills building adjoining. He hurriedly donned hat and coat and rushed off to find his father in the Boreel building.

A few minutes later President Brownell, Clarence and Andy McDowell were closeted together. Mr. Brownell's sole care was for the valuables. McDowell wanted to capture the robbers. Clarence agreed to both propositions, but wanted to accomplish the capture in a scientific manner. Finally the following note was sent to the chief of police:

"I have reason to believe that an attempt will be made this afternoon to seize the funds of this bank, which as you know are carried to the vaults of the Mercantile Deposit Co., each afternoon at 4:10. Will you kindly let me have fifty men in citizens' clothes, one hour before that time?" JAMES BROWNELL,
Pres. American National Bank.

Just after the dinner hour several large crates were carried into the bank, and Clarence Brownell and Andy McDowell, in the seclusion of a back room, unpacked them and disclosed the exact duplicates of the leather-covered strong boxes that were accustomed to make the daily pilgrimage.

"Do you know anything about laughing gas?" asked the young man as he helped Andy pass the familiar leather-covered chain through the handles.

"It has been used frae time long ago to put a mon to the sleep when th' teeth are pulled," replied Andy in his broad Scotch.

"Yes, that's true. It is one of the best and safest anesthetics. But do you know how it gets its name?"

"No. I canna say that."

"Sometimes if a man is very strongly excited when he takes it, instead of putting him to sleep it seems to increase the excitement. If he is moaning, it makes him shriek in fright; if he is giggling hysterically, it sets him to howling with laughter."

Andy expressed his surprise appropriately and finished the task at which he was engaged by fastening a stout fine cord to one of the strong boxes. "Noo, boy," he said. "'Tis done. I hope ta tricks will be the snarin' o' them. But in ony case, we will na let them s'ip awa'."

At exactly ten minutes after four McDowell appeared in the doorway of the Boreel building. This was the signal for the policeman who has charge of that crossing to halt all traffic. After McDowell came the seven clerks, bearing as usual the leather covered boxes connected by the leather strap. Next came several other clerks carrying the usual extra supply of cases and satchels, and finally the two watchmen.

Everything appeared as usual. But an initiated observer would have seen that one of the extra satchels had a small perforation in the side and the cord all ready to unwind from the reel inside was fastened to the string of treasure boxes. Suddenly McDowell, whose watchful eye had been covertly searching the windows on both sides of the street, shouted, "Look out!"

A grapnel hook at the end of a heavy rope swung from the sky above, straight toward the human caravan. With one accord the clerks dropped their burden, and sprang out of harm's way. There was a cry from the spectators on all sides. The hook engaged the chain, and next instant a half million in treasure was disappearing skyward before the eyes of the multitude that swarmed on Broadway, the busiest street in the world.

Then followed five minutes of the most tremendous excitement. For perhaps three seconds the string of boxes was in sight before it disappeared like a flash over the roof cornice of the Equitable building. Old McDowell drew a red handkerchief from his pocket and waved it frantically. Policemen in citizens' clothes came running from all directions, and others appeared in office windows in the various surrounding buildings, and at various elevations. The clerk who held the satchel containing the reel of cord shouted, "They've stopped."

Andy looked. The cord was no longer unrolling. He followed the string with his eye as far as he could toward the roof of the Equitable. Then with a score of men, Clarence Brownell among them, he rushed into the building for an elevator. In a twinkling they had reached the top floor and started for the stairway to the loft. McDowell's quick eye caught the color of the twine. "There it is," he shouted. "Back! Follow it down the corridor."

Most of the men raced off, guided by the cord, but Clarence bounded on upstairs to the loft. The steps were dented and hacked by the iron boxes that had just been dragged down them. In the loft, hidden by some rough crates, he found a small but powerful electric motor bolted into position, a windlass with several hundred feet of cable wound up, and an ugly looking grapnel anchor. The steps up to the roof were also hacked and gouged, and to make assurance doubly sure, the tell-tale cord led straight up and across the open space to the cornice.

He ran back down stairs to find Andy McDowell and all his assistants gathered silently around a door at the farthermost end of the corridor. The guiding cord ran under this door.

From the other side came a most distracting uproar. Two voices were raised high in clamor. One wailed and wept and boohoo'd; the other ha-ha'd, and whooped with laughter. Clarence understood it instantly but the policemen stared at the door as though they feared the presence of the evil one. Presently an ax was brought and the door was burst in. Grovelling on the floor and shrieking in despair was John Simms, and lying back in a chair in a paroxysm of ghastly mirth was Alec Du Tosc—two of the most notorious brokers and stock speculators on the street. In a heap on the floor between the two men were the leather-covered boxes, badly scarred and scuffed, but still held together by the chain. One of these was wide open, and it was from this that the sweetish-scented gas was pouring.

After the windows had been opened, the police entered and carried the anesthetized men down to the street, whence they were quickly shipped to the Tombs.

Among the first callers at the prison the next morning were Andy McDowell in company with Clarence Brownell. Alec DuTosc, devil-may-care as ever, greeted them from behind the bars, and when he had heard how the string of iron boxes he had so cleverly filched up from the street below had contained nothing but compressed laughing gas, he chuckled heartily over the trick and complimented the boy for his ingenuity.

"I would like to know, though," he added, "where the boodle was all night."

"Last nocht," answered McDowell ruefully, as he thought of the sleep lost by the president, the cashier and himself, "the American National Bank never quit at all. Eet wa' anxious to be ready to do business wi' its coostomers the first thing the mornin'."

How 'Squire Hawkins Enforced the Law.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY ROBERT B. BUCKHAM.

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WITH the exception of the parson alone, 'Squire Hawkins was by far the most prominent man of the village. He was the Justice of the peace, King's Commissioner, ruling spirit of the town, jailer, town Treasurer, and elder deacon of the church. For years he had been looked upon as in a way the father and wise counsellor of the town. Nothing of any importance in the line of public affairs was ever undertaken without first consulting him, and his word was invariably accepted as law immutable.

Be it said to his credit that he endeavored to fulfill each and every one of his offices with the utmost conscientiousness, however much he may have been in error in good judgment, and strove ever to put to the best advantage for the good of the village, the responsible position which he felt to be his in the community. It was he who fined William Littlefield two shillings for laughing when a stray dog ran into the church during meeting; Jeremiah Simpson four shillings for presuming to sit on the women's side of the meeting house; and Obed Shorey five shillings for absenting himself during the sermon; that thus the dignity of the church might be maintained.

He it was also who proposed and carried through the measure that the church should discard the drum and substitute a bell instead, to summon the people to worship, arguing his case with such warmth and vehemence, increasing the dimensions advocated for it with each new burst of eloquence, and so loudly scoffing at the niggardly spirit of any who would be content with anything less, that when at length the bell was cast, and arrived, it was found to be much too large for the belfry on the meeting house. And it was he, again, who came to the rescue of the people at this trying juncture, and proposed the expedient of hanging the bell in the great pine tree near the meeting house, thus surmounting this difficulty to the complete satisfaction of all.

The day before Christmas of the year 175— brought with it a louder call for the counsels of the 'Squire than any which had preceded it for more than a decade. Never had there been greater excitement rife in the village than on that day, for the public conscience and sense of good taste and decorum of the people had been rudely shocked and sorely disturbed. Some few meddlesome persons of the town, without regard to ancient custom, had petitioned the Selectmen that the great church bell be rung on Christmas eve, in commemoration of the advent of that solemn day.

Such a departure from old time usage had never been suggested before, and called forth no little discussion among the townspeople, until at length a day of public hearing had been appointed. The place of audience was the spacious front room of the residence of Justice Hawkins, the room where the Court of the village was wont to hold its sittings. It was crowded to its utmost capacity on that day with men, women and children; spectators eager to hear and to see what was about to be said and done; while many more stood about without, clamorous for any reports from the more fortunate ones who had succeeded in securing entrance to the building.

With an ardor and zeal which he had never before equalled in his life, 'Squire Hawkins argued the case for the opponents of the petition. "No! The bell should not be rung! What an outrage upon the customs of the fathers to as much as suggest such a thing! Never did they suffer the advent of Christmas to be celebrated or recognized in any way. Never would they have countenanced such a ridiculous proceeding; and never would he! No! Before he would permit the ringing of the bell on that evening, he would take the law into his own hands! Let anyone but dare to touch the rope, to set its tongue agoing, and he himself would punish him. Yes, without mercy, and with a terrible chastisement!" and the speaker brought his heavy cane down upon the floor with a thud which carried conviction with his hearers. "No," was the vote of Selectmen, and the petition was dismissed.

Now among the listeners in the court room was the demure and comely widow Langmaid, and as the 'Squire was himself a widower and sometimes thought of taking unto himself a second wife, what more natural than that being by no means out of sorts with the success of the day, he should have greeted her cheerily, and walked home with her through the throng of admiring onlookers; and even staid to tea with her, when so warmly urged to do so, as well as for some little time after.

In fact, it was late in the night before the Justice started for home again; very late, as well as very cold, and for these reasons he determined to try a short cut home through the woods, rather than go around by way of the road. Traveling through the forest he found to be comparatively easy, in spite of the fact that the snow was deep and that it was much

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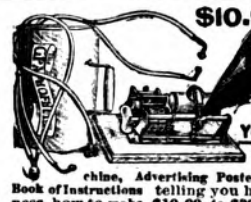
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darker under the shadow of the evergreens than out in the moonlit clearings; and the Justice was about congratulating himself that he was to reach home safely and speedily, when chancing to turn about and glance behind him, he beheld a sight which chilled him to the very marrow with abject terror. A dark, shaggy beast, with glittering eyes and fangs which glistened savagely even in the dim light of the woods, was stealthily following after him! A wolf! Doubtless more were close at hand! And with a leap the midnight traveler started for the open at the top of his speed.

No precaution was neglected by the fleeing magistrate to prevent his coming off winner in the race for life which he realized he must now run with the bloodthirsty fiends behind him. He threw aside his great coat, his cane, his periwig, even his silver mounted snuff box, that he might not be hampered by them in his flight. Headlong he plunged through the timber, crashing through underbrush and deadwood heedless of the havoc which it wrought with his fine clothing and silk stockings, his very best, donned in honor of the day's event.

But the open was gained at last, and right before the fugitive lay the meeting house. Ah, if he could but reach it he would be safe; yet as he drew near it occurred to him with overwhelming dismay that, after all, in no possible manner could he gain its interior, for its door was securely locked. But there was the pine tree, just beyond, the cleats nailed to it forming a convenient ladder to its very top! He could ascend that!

With an agility that would have aroused the envy of many a nimble schoolboy, the King's Commissioner ascended the tree, and having perched himself securely upon a stout limb, stopped at last to rest and catch his breath. For the time being, at least, he was out of danger; but a new source of anxiety loomed up before him as he sat upon his elevated perch, now and then casting an anxious look down at his fierce pursuer sitting stubbornly at the base of the tree, ever and again licking its great chops and whining mournfully, as though in rage and disappointment at this unexpected postponement of its feast.

Without coat or hat, as he was, and bathed in perspiration with the alarm and exertions of the past few moments, the shivering prisoner began to feel most severely the effects of the biting and intense cold of the winter's night. It soon became evident to him that if help did not come to his rescue speedily, he must inevitably become so benumbed with the cold as to be unable to maintain his seat longer, and drop to the ground below to become the prey of the glaring monster seated there.

What was he to do? No one would be passing at that hour of the night, for all were at home and in bed. Even if he should shout for help at the top of his lungs he would not be heard, so great was the distance to the nearest house. As he was thus sitting in a state of awful suspense and anxiety, meditating upon the terrible fate to which he seemed doomed, suddenly there swept over him, like a great flood of emotion, a realization of a possible means of escape, thrilling him to the fingertips with a great tide of renewed hope and unspeakable joy. *He could ring the church bell in the tree!* That, surely, would attract some one to his relief.

And so it did. For a few moments after the clear tones of the bell rang out upon the crisp, frosty air, the silence of the night remained unbroken; then many indistinguishable and indescribable sounds began to float to the ear of the eager listener, portentous of some mighty disturbance away in the distance; and a little after, a great, black throng of individuals came hurrying from all quarters, shouting to one another in excited tones, and pushing and jostling one another in their haste to gain the lead.

Again and again the Justice heard his name sounded above the din. "'Squire Hawkins! Where is he? Wait for him! Wait! Wait! Let him administer the punishment." But nothing could stay the fury of the rabble. On it came like a mighty deluge, sweeping along with irresistible momentum, and surrounded the tree in a twinkling. Then followed a shower of snowballs and dead branches directed at the luckless individual in the tree, amid many bitter threats and loud cries of "Come down! Come down, you rascal!"

The besieged magistrate, unable to make himself heard above the noise, found it necessary to speedily descend in order to save himself from serious injury. But no sooner had his feet touched the ground than he was seized by a score of hands, from behind and before, and given such a shaking and kicking and cuffing as he had never before dreamed of in his life. Indeed, it would be difficult to state what might not have happened, had not some strong lunged individual cried out, "Hold! It is 'Squire Hawkins himself! Come to think of it, I saw his dog sitting under the tree as we came up!"

The crowd stood back aghast. Explanations were offered, but were received with no little incredulity on the part of the villagers, who finally returned in silent awe and wonder to their homes and their beds. It was many a day before the unwonted incident ceased to be the main topic of conversation throughout the village, and the strangest part of it all was that thereafter, when any one wished the bell rung, on Christmas eve, or New Year's eve, or at any time whatever, it was done without as much as consulting the Selectmen; and curiously enough, without a single word of remonstrance from 'Squire Justice Hawkins, the King's Commissioner.

A BIG MAN WITH A BABY'S STOMACH.

A SPECTACLE WHICH IS NOT UNCOMMON IN THE AMERICAN HOME.

He lives on crackers and milk, baby's food. He has a baby's stomach. Give meat to a baby and it will probably be thrown into convulsions. If this man eats meat he suffers agony. He can only eat baby foods, "spoon victuals."

This is the story of the man with a baby's stomach.

He was once a hearty eater. He could eat anything. And he did. He ate by the clock, regardless of the necessities of nutrition. He rushed through breakfast to get to business. He hustled through lunch because of business.



He went home at night, tired out, to eat a heavy dinner, which his stomach was entirely unfit to take care of.

Then came a time when his stomach seemed unduly distended after he had eaten a meal. There were bitter eructations and belchings; a constant feeling of discomfort, and sometimes a dull pain in the stomach. Somebody told him to take some sort of tablets or drops after each meal. He tried it and it eased him. The gas didn't trouble him so much and his stomach wasn't so uncomfortable. He thought it was all right to mix meals and medicine, and did it regularly. But presently other symptoms appeared. He grew nervous, sleepless, irritable. His skin was dry and harsh. His liver didn't act. His heart troubled him, his kidneys were out of order. He had miserable headaches.

Then he began to doctor. He doctored for his liver; for his heart; for his kidneys; for his nerves.

Then the doctors gave him up, and he gave up the doctors.

That is one half of the story. Here's the other half in

THE MAN'S OWN WORDS.

"About ten years ago I began to have trouble with my stomach," writes Mr. Wm. Conolly, of 535 Walnut St., Lorain, Ohio. "It got so bad that I had to lay off quite often two and three days in a week, my stomach would bloat, and I would belch up gas, and was in awful distress at such times. I have employed and been treated by the best doctors in this city, but got no help whatever. Some said I had cancer of the stomach, others catarrh, others dyspepsia. I have bought and tried everything I saw advertised for dyspepsia and stomach trouble, but continued to get worse all the time. About twelve months ago I was in such a condition that my friends had some fear about my recovering. I called a doctor and he found me in a very bad shape. Hands and limbs were cold and dripping with cold sweat. He told me that I had a very bad case of chronic indigestion. I was under his treatment until this spring (1898), but did not improve any. By some way or other I happened to get hold of a vial of your Pellets, and I thought they helped me. It was then I wrote to you for advice. You told me that by my symptoms you thought I had liver complaint and advised the use of your Golden Medical Discovery and Pleasant Pellets in connection. These medicines I have taken as directed and am very happy to state that I commenced to get better from the start, and have not lost a day this summer on account of my stomach. I feel tip-top, and better than I have for ten years."

If that history of one man's suffering and cure teaches anything, it teaches this:

There is no need to suffer with "weak" stomach and the score of ills it causes.

Because:

Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery cures diseases of the stomach and organs of digestion and nutrition. It has cured thousands of men and women whose cases were like that of Mr. Conolly. It has cured "weak" heart, "weak" liver, "weak" lungs, "weak" nerves, and every other kind of weakness which can have its origin in a "weak" stomach. It cures through the stomach the ailments which have their origin in a diseased condition of the stomach and organs of digestion and nutrition.

A WORD FROM A WOMAN.

"I had suffered from indigestion, and only those who have suffered from it know what it really is," writes Mrs. M. J. Fagan, of 1613 East Genessee St., Syracuse, N. Y. "I had had severe attacks of headache and dizziness, with cold hands and feet; everything I ate distressed me, bowels were constipated and I was growing thin and nervous. I cannot express the bad feelings I had when I commenced taking Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery. I took nine bottles of the 'Discovery' and have taken several bottles of Dr. Pierce's Pleasant Pellets. I commenced feeling better with the first bottle and kept on improving. Now I am so greatly improved in health my friends often speak of it. I most heartily recommend these medicines to all suffering as I was. I received more benefit from them than any other medicine used."

When the stomach and organs of digestion and nutrition are diseased the natural result is to cut down the nutrition of the body. Just as much food may be eaten, but it's not the food eaten but the food digested and assimilated which keeps the body strong. When the stomach is "weak" it's like any weak thing; it can only do weak work. The full strength of the stomach equals the full strength of the whole body. Cut down the strength of the stomach, weaken the powers of digestion and assimilation, and by as much as the stomach is weakened by so much the whole body is weakened. But as this whole body is made of parts, so this "weakness" is distributed over these several parts, heart, lungs, liver, kidneys, nerves, blood, etc.

When "Golden Medical Discovery" cures the "weak" stomach it necessarily cures the weakness of other organs which have been dragged down by the weakness or disease of the stomach and the associated organs of digestion and nutrition. That is why diseases of lungs, liver, heart, kidneys, nerves and blood are cured by "Golden Medical Discovery."

The remarkable cures effected by the use of "Golden Medical Discovery" warrant the hope of a cure in any similar case. No matter how many doctors have failed, or how many medicines have been taken in vain, there is hope for everybody who begins the use of Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery. It always helps. It almost always cures.

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THE HERMIT'S RUSE.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY ROBERT SEAVER.

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BILLY and I had decided to take our vacation trip on our wheels. We had no definite destination in view and decided to go where we chose, spend the night wherever we happened to be, in a farm-house, perhaps, or in a barn or hayfield, if no better accommodations offered. The third day out we had ridden until late in the evening without coming to any dwelling when we came in sight of a comfortable-looking farm-house.

It was a large white house, evidently built in Colonial days, and though then, no doubt, a fine mansion was now rather dilapidated and neglected in appearance. Billy rested his wheel against the fence and strode up the weed-grown walk, to where a light shone in the kitchen window.

His knock was answered by a little, white-haired old gentleman, who seemed extremely glad to see us. He welcomed us both as if we had been old friends, and invited us into the kitchen where he presented us to his wife, a dear old motherly lady, who won my heart at once by setting out some fresh doughnuts and new milk.

We became very sociable. Mr. Wilson, we learned, had been a doctor in a near-by town, but failing health and eyesight had decided him to go back to the occupation of his boyhood years, and so he had bought this place a few weeks before, where he and his wife expected to end their days in peace.

We had asked merely for refreshment when we knocked at the door of the farm-house. When now, after regaling ourselves, we broached the subject of spending the night, Doctor Wilson looked uneasily at his wife—talked with her a minute in a low tone and then said:

"Excuse me, friends, if I have hesitated about answering you. You are very welcome here, if you can stand it. The fact is—now don't think me foolish—that this house is haunted."

"Oh!" we both laughed.

"Great scheme," said Billy. "One more adventure added to our list. By Jove, Doctor, that beats the supper. I've never slept in a haunted house but I'll be glad enough to try it."

"Don't be too sure, my boy," said the doctor. "Wait till morning before you talk that way. When I bought this place it had been vacant for two years and it has had a dozen owners in the last five years. Nobody ever went near it. I felt as you do, then, but I'll confess, after what I've heard for the past two weeks I may have to move out after all. It's absurd, I know, but that's the way the matter stands."

Assuring our host that all the ghosts in the country couldn't rouse us, Dr. Wilson showed us to a neat little room and left us. We were not long in getting to bed and, tired out, fell asleep at once. The next thing I knew I felt Billy grip my arm. "Listen," he said; and wide awake we listened to the weirdest collection of moans and shrieks I have ever heard. They seemed to come from first one side of the room and then the other. Sleep was out of the question and we lay awake and shivered for the rest of the night. The next morning we found that the doctor and his wife had also been disturbed; in fact, Mrs. Wilson was on the verge of nervous prostration.

After breakfast we bade our hosts adieu and went our way. The night's adventure had made a strong impression on me and I decided to go back to the Wilsons and try to solve the mystery. Billy had had enough, and declined to go back.

"I believe old Wilson is a fraud," he said, "and put up a game on us. You can go ghost-chasing if you want, but I won't."

So we parted company and I rode back to the Wilsons', arriving the following morning. I found that there had been no disturbance the night before, which rather strengthened my impression that Billy was right and that the doctor was making a fool of us. Besides, a ghost is never as real by daylight, and by noon I had almost decided to ride off and forget the matter. That morning, with the doctor, I had examined the old house as thoroughly as possible, and had explored every nook for some solution of the mystery, but without result; nothing had been discovered. In the afternoon the doctor and I had visited the attic, which we found littered with all the odds and ends that accumulate in old houses. Not worth moving, they had probably been untouched since the house was built. I was delighted—I had forgotten my ghost in the zest of looking over these old things, which the doctor gave me the privilege of examining while he went to attend to his work about the place. An old hair-cloth trunk attracted my attention. It opened easily and I found it stuffed full of old papers and letters. These I examined with idle curiosity, finding besides family letters, old mortgages and deeds, a lieutenant's commission in the Colonial army, a copy of a royal proclamation, and then, way at the bottom, an old plan, yellow with age, which I studied, idly at first, then with eager interest, for here I discovered a possible clue to the ghost mystery.

It was a plan of the house and grounds; that I soon discovered. There was writing, too, and after long study I deciphered it and found myself in possession of a clue indeed. The plan was a diagram of the house, sure enough, and showed the secret passages and hiding places that had been built for the purpose of hiding refugees in Revolutionary times. The entrance was from the old well in the back yard. Rushing down stairs I found the doctor and his wife and explained my find. Together we went to the well, which had not been used for years. I descended, and after going about ten feet discovered a dark passage or tunnel, at right angles to the side of the well and leading toward the house, just large enough to allow a man to crawl through. This I followed until I came to a very narrow and steep flight of stairs,

scarcely a foot wide. These led up to the wall of the house, I decided; then a narrow passage through which I slipped sideways, and another flight of steps like the first. The dust and heat were suffocating, but a little light filtered in under the eaves.

Without waiting further I retraced my steps to the well, where I found the doctor and his wife anxiously waiting. I told them of my discovery, and we decided upon a plan of action. Ghosts no longer bothered us—our idea now was to catch the flesh and blood ghost that had made all the trouble. We soon decided on a plan—simply to hide and catch the intruder when he entered the passage. That night I hid in the barn and was rewarded about midnight by seeing a man creep up through the field opposite the house. He entered the well, and then in a few minutes I heard the groans and cries that had so disturbed my peace of mind two nights before. After a time the noises ceased and I ran out and crouched beside the well. The doctor, according to agreement, slipped out of the house and joined me. In a few minutes we could hear our man creeping through the tunnel; then as soon as he appeared at the brink of the well I sprang upon him, and soon we had him tied securely, though he struggled desperately.

We carried him into the kitchen, where we discovered our prisoner was a very distinguished looking, if somewhat dilapidated old gentleman, a veritable blue-blood dressed in the style of seventy years ago, and though rambling and incoherent in his speech, evidently a man of education and refinement. At first he declined to tell his story, but at length on our assuring him that we would let him go if he would tell us his object in playing ghost, he explained his motive.

Long ago, he said, his family had owned the property, but had been cheated out of their possession and title by another branch, through a forged will. His father had left him, among other papers, a plan of the secret passages with which the house was honeycombed, and the idea had seized him to play ghost and frighten away the usurping occupants of his ancestral home. His plan had succeeded—the property had passed from one hand to another, losing value with every transfer, and each time he had succeeded in scaring away the owners who would then sell—for any price, to get the property off their hands. While the house was unoccupied he had lived in the attic, scaring away the passers-by with ghostly noises. While the house was occupied, the "ghost" had lived in a little hut on the side of the mountain, an eccentric hermit, who aroused the curiosity and fear of the whole neighborhood.

When his story was ended the old hermit broke down and wept bitterly, and so, too, to tell the truth, did Mrs. Wilson.

* * * * * *

The Wilsons still have their ghost, but he occupies the room Billy and I had, and never groans in the night unless, perchance, he indulges too freely in the toothsome, but sometimes indigestible dainties with which the doctor's wife heaps his plate.

THE SHERIFF'S MISTAKE.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY FREDERICK E. BURNHAM.

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HORSE thieves and desperadoes had made matters lively at Preston for several months. More acts of lawlessness had been perpetrated within six months than during any two years previous. As a natural result every stranger was eyed with more or less suspicion until he gave satisfactory evidence that he was an honest man.

One evening late in the fall of '89, word was passed from mouth to mouth to the effect that a disreputable looking negro was somewhere within the limits of the township, and in a very short space of time a searching party had been organized and a hundred or more were shortly scouring the country about, searching for the negro, whose only crime(?) so far as they knew, was the wearing of ragged garments.

A little after ten o'clock the negro was located, asleep in a deserted barn.

"Wha' yir doin', sah?" demanded the negro, aroused from his slumbers.

"Wha' the matter?"

"We'll show you what's the matter, you black devil," said the man who had seized him. "Who have you robbed, hey?"

"Robbed?" queried the darky, "I ain't robbed nobody."

"What have you got in there?"

The negro had made a movement with his hand toward the lining of his coat.

"Nothin', sah! Nothin', sho's yo born!"

One of the men stripped the coat off with a vicious jerk—and received the negro's great fist fairly between the eyes. For an instant the darky jabbered wildly, the while clinging tightly to his coat.

"Yo leave dat coat 'lone, sah. I robbed nobody. Leave dat coat 'lone——'or, Sah-h-h!"

The man's cries were cut short.

Out upon the barnfloor fell a worn money-pouch. It had dropped from the lining of the negro's coat.

"Not robbed anybody, eh?" said one of the men. "It looks like it. Look at the bills, boys. He's the man we're looking for. Get the noose ready and we'll make short work of him. Parker is two miles from here and if he was only a hundred rods he'd leave us alone."

At the name of Parker the negro brightened up.

"That's the man, sah, I was lookin' fo.' I was carryin' de money to him. I come from 'Frisco foot, one—two t'ousand mile to guv' it into his hands."

The crowd roared with merriment.

"Come to see the sheriff with the money you'd stole. You're a cool one and no mistake!"

Unknown to the mob, one of the men slipped out of the barn and a moment later was riding at breakneck speed toward the sheriff's house.

"Stave it off as long as you can, John," he had whispered to one of the men, "I'll be back soon. I believe he's telling the truth."

The sheriff angrily asked what was wanted at that hour of the night.

"There's a mob down in the Hollow and they are about to string up a negro. He says that he has got something to give you—a money-pouch that dropped out of his coat. Ride for all you're worth, Parker, and I'll be on hand with one or two others to help you."

The sheriff banged the window, grumbling the while. Hurry? Hardly! He took little stock in the man's words, but would go, nevertheless, merely to ease the minds of certain individuals in the town who were opposed to lynchings. As far as he was concerned, the mob had his hearty consent.

Meanwhile, matters were progressing at the barn in the Hollow, though somewhat tardily, owing to the entreaties of the man whom the messenger had asked to stave off the execution.

"Hear his side of the story," said he, turning to the negro, "there is time enough. What have you got to say for yourself, nigger? How did you come by the money! Speak out."

"It was this way, sah;" replied the negro, loosening the cord about his throat, "I wuked 'long side a man in de mines whose name was Parker; some called him Jim, others, Bill; I dunno which it was. Six months ago he tuk sick an' died, and afore he guv up he handed me dis yere bag of money, sayin' as how it was to go to a man here in dis state by de name of Parker; might have been his father or brudder, I dunno 'bout dat; he tole me, too, but I's forgot, and I's been trampin' round tryin' to find a 'Parker' as knowed a Jim or a Bill Parker."

"A good story, nigger," said one of the men, "but it don't go down with us. Say your prayers and be quick about it, for your neck is going to be stretched."

"I's tellin' de truth, sho as I's born, sah," said the negro, his black skin taking on a grayish tinge. "I's tellin' de truth, sah, sho——sho——"

There was an ominous silence, and then the clatter of hoofs in the street.

The negro slipped his hand into his pocket and produced a ring.

"Marse Parker'd know this if——"

The words were cut short. Some one had kicked the box from under the negro's feet and the noose tightened. An instant later the body swung limply from the rafter.

Even as it was done the mob scattered and when the sheriff with two others pushed open the door, there was no sign of the rabble, save the apparently lifeless body of the negro.

The sheriff saw an object on the floor that glittered in the rays of the lantern, and he stooped to pick it up.

It was a plain gold ring. On the inside was engraved the letters, "J. W. P.—from Cynthia."

The sheriff staggered back, his eyes starting from their sockets. With a hoarse cry he called upon his companions to cut down the body. As the body was laid on the floor the negro's eyes rolled and the thick lips moved convulsively.

Somehow in that moment of consciousness the negro learned that before him was the man whom he had sought. That he did, is one of the unaccountable facts which we are obliged to face sometimes in our lives. In the hour of death a keener perception is often accorded mortals.

"Marse Parker," said the negro feebly, "Marse Parker, Jim tole me to brung yo a bag o' money for to square up 'bout a hoss he done let get killed. I's trabbled on foot from 'Frisco an' was jist goin' to guv it to yo, but some one has tuk it from me."

The negro's mind wandered for a moment and his hand sought his pocket.

"I had—a—a ring what his sister done guv him once, but somehow I done lost dat too, Marse Parker. I guess p'raps——p'raps I——dropped——dropped——"

The negro gasped and all was over.

The morning sun was streaming into the deserted barn in the Hollow. Sheriff Parker was kneeling by the side of the negro, his hands clasping the negro's great palms. He had asked again and again for more tidings of the boy who had left home ten years previous—he had asked, but the negro's lips were mute.

The Hero of Aqua Fria Camp.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY E. BOURDON WILSON.

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I HAVE to laugh whenever I think of Billy as he looked one Sunday morning, his face was so human—comically human—in appearance. He was seated dog-fashion on the ground beside a group of ten men, wearing an old felt hat that hid his horns and made his forehead seem broad and high; his "whiskers" had been carefully combed to make him look like a gray-bearded man; and he held the stem of a clay pipe in his mouth, though, to his credit, he was not smoking. His large eyes were bright with intelligence, and as solemn as a judge's; and but for his nose being a little long, he would have been quite as human in appearance as some men I have known.

What was Billy? A goat—a big Mexican goat, the leader of the mule-herd, and the pet and hero of every man in camp.

I was a contractor when I owned him, back in 1882, and I was engaged in grading a railroad in Northern Mexico, employing about fifty men and a hundred mules. The part of Mexico we were in, was, and is yet as for that matter, a desolate region of bare, rocky mountains, and treeless plains, the want of rain making it a desert. There is, however, a short season in the fall when rain falls almost continuously, and then the short prairies quickly clothe themselves with a growth of grass; this reaches a height of about six inches before the moisture is exhausted, then dries, curling into feed every bit as nutritious for stock as the best timothy hay. It was my custom to send the mules at night, in the charge of a herder, to graze on this grass; in some respects mules are silly creatures, however; they readily stampede, a flash of lightning or clap of thunder, or the howling of a coyote often being sufficient to send them galloping madly away; while the cry of a mountain lion, or the sight of a band of antelopes is sure to give them a fright from which they do not recover until exhausted with running. So, to prevent such stampedes, I bought Billy and installed him as leader of my herd.

How can a goat prevent stampedes? Put one with a herd of mules and he will at once fraternize with them, they never attempting to harm him as they would a calf or other small animal; and they soon come to regard him as their leader, one in whose wisdom they trust implicitly. Even though badly scared themselves, they will not run away and leave him; and as goats are not easily frightened, and cannot run far if frightened, the value of such a leader in an open country can easily be estimated.

When I moved into the country to go to work, I established my camp near a spring called Aqua Fria (Cold Water); this spring gushed out from beneath a spur of a range of wild, rugged mountains that stretched away northward farther than the eye could reach. A level prairie lay in every other direction, affording convenient pasturage. We had been at work less than a month when the herder reported one morning that one of the mules was missing; and it seemed that he had strayed away from the herd during the night, but we thought it strange that he should leave Billy. Knowing that domestic animals seldom wander far from man in a desert country, expecting the missing mule soon to return to camp of his own accord, I made no effort to find him. The night following another one disappeared, but still I was not alarmed; nevertheless, as every mule was needed to work, I took the precaution of sending two men with the herd the next night. In spite of this it was found the next morning that still another mule was gone.

Even yet I felt no fear as to the ultimate recovery of the missing mules, but, as they were needed every day, I sent out mounted men to hunt for them; they found no trace of them, however, and aroused at last, I ordered that the remaining animals, with the exception of Billy and El Sabio (The Wise One), a shaggy little donkey who was kept hobbled to prevent his wandering, be kept haltered to the feed-rope at night. This ended the loss of the mules, but a few mornings later some of the men reported that their tents had been robbed during the night.

In such a country as we were in, where the necessaries of life command exorbitant prices, or are unobtainable, the loss of such articles as were stolen, blankets and clothing, is a serious one; and the men would have executed summary justice upon the thief had he fallen into their hands. There was nothing to lead to the identification of the guilty one, however, and the men went to their work casting dark looks at one another, each half suspecting his neighbor.

The following morning one of the men failed to report for work; and going to his tent to see if he were sick, I was horrified to find him lying there, dead, a great knife wound in his side. Instantly the camp became the scene of great excitement; the men refused to go to work, and, buckling on their revolvers, gathered in groups to discuss the one theme of conversation. That night they took turns at guarding the camp, and they saw nothing moving except El Sabio hobbling about, nevertheless another man was murdered before morning.

Who was the assassin? and what was his motive? were questions asked on every hand. Quickly the men wrought themselves into a frenzy of excitement and fear; and recalling the silly story of a Mexican, which was to the effect that the spring was haunted by a demon of horrible appearance, who killed and robbed all who came in his way, and without fear of detection, he having the power to make himself invisible, the superstitious ones at once ascribed the constantly recurring crimes to supernatural agencies. They would have deserted me in a body had I not called them about me, and, ridiculing their fears, plead with them to remain another twenty-four hours, proposing a plan by which I hoped to catch the murderer.

"Let every man go to his tent to-night as though nothing had happened," I said, "and placing himself so that he can see every part of the tent, pretend to sleep, but keep his eyes open and his finger on the trigger of his revolver and fire without hesitation at anything he may see moving."

With some murmuring on the part of the more fearful ones they finally consented to remain; and, as I hoped the next night passed without incident, as did the next and the next. A week went by and the men becoming reassured, had returned to work, when about two o'clock one morning, the camp was aroused by a scream that was followed closely by a succession of shots. Springing to my feet and hurrying in the direction whence came the sounds, I met a man who cried out to me that he had been attacked and wounded by the mysterious assassin. Taking him to my tent and making a light, I found the blood streaming from a gash in his side; but, fortunately for him, the wound was a slight one and the flow of blood was quickly staunched.

He had heard a faint sound in his tent, he said, but being very drowsy did not open his eyes until something touched him, and then he turned to grab his revolver. This movement saved his life, for at that moment he felt a glancing blow and the sting of the knife in his side. He screamed and began firing and a dark figure darted out of the tent. As soon as he could get to his feet he also ran out, but saw no moving thing except El Sabio, who was hobbling by not far away.

There was no more sleep for any one in camp that night and I fully expected every man to leave with the coming of day. Some of them did propose to go but to my surprise, the wounded man insisted that all remain so that he could discover who had wounded him, and avenge the deed. Two nights now passed peaceably, every man watching alertly. On the third night I lay in my tent, looking out through a small opening in the rear, when, about midnight, I saw El Sabio hobbling toward me; there was no moon but the stars afforded sufficient light for me to see clearly. As I carelessly observed the donkey, Billy came trotting up to him to rub noses, but stopped just before their noses touched and began backing away; then he paused, and lowering his head charged down on El Sabio at full speed.

The donkey saw him coming and started to wheel, but was too slow and Billy's head struck him in the side, knocking him over; and as often as he would try to regain his feet Billy would rear up and knock him down again. The two had always been on the best of terms and I was at a loss to understand Billy's behavior, but not for long; as I watched, a tawny human hand, gripping a long-bladed knife, stole out from somewhere about the donkey and struck at Billy. Instantly I leaped to my feet and rushing out of my tent, opened fire with my revolver upon the donkey. The effect was instantaneous and startling: with a savage yell the donkey's skin burst and was thrown aside, revealing a hideously painted Apache Indian, who sprang erect and started running. He did not take a dozen steps before a shot from my revolver brought him down, and some of the men running up overpowered him and tied him hand and foot.

Even had I wished to do so I could not have restrained the men. They hurried to where a wagon stood and raising the tongue erect, propping it securely, passed a rope through the ring at its end and strung the Indian up. His death was but just punishment for his crimes. Disguised in a donkey's skin (not El Sabio's, as we quickly learned), he had been wandering at will about the camp, and watching his opportunity would steal into a tent to kill and rob. The next day we found a cave in the mountains, wherein were stored all of the stolen things and not far from that we found the missing mules.

And that is how Billy came to be the hero of Aqua Fria Camp.

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Some Stories About Mr. Moody.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY MAX B. THRASHER.



THOSE who knew the late D. L. Moody only as a preacher, and from his printed sermons, can never fully realize the wonderful power of the man. The choicest thoughts of his heart, his most striking utterances, came spontaneously to his lips and were dashed out with prodigal lavishness in the course of his evangelical work, to have no printed record unless it might happen to be in some newspaper report of the services. During the series of meetings which Mr. Moody conducted in Tremont Temple in Boston, early in 1897, the last great series of services which he ever conducted in New England, I reported him for one of the Boston daily papers, twice a day for two months. I have been looking over my note books of that time and in them find set down many of the things which impressed me most deeply at the time.

Mr. Moody was one of the best story tellers I ever knew. He had great dramatic ability, in this way, and used it repeatedly to illustrate his arguments. One of the best stories I heard him tell was about "Lady Pendulum."

This was a woman who came to Mr. Moody's services in one of the cities of England. She was a person of wealth and importance, evidently, but lame, as she was brought into the meetings in a chair by her footman and placed in the aisle directly in front of the pulpit.

"As I watched her through the service," said Mr. Moody, "I could see an expression of disgust come over her face, and when the service was over I heard her say to her footman impatiently, 'Take me out of here.'

"I said to myself that I would not see her back again, but the next day she was there, and the next, for a week, and finally she had her chair brought into the after-meeting which followed the regular service. When I saw her there I went to speak to her. She said: 'Mr. Moody, you've got something which I have not.'

"I said: 'If you haven't got the love of the Lord Jesus Christ in your heart, I have.'

"She said: 'You've got rest.'

"Well, it seemed that she wanted to be a Christian, but she said that it was no use; it wouldn't last after I had gone back to America. I talked with her every day for a week, I guess, and it didn't do any good. Finally, one day when I was speaking, and she sat there in her chair in the aisle in front of me, I happened to think of the old story of the pendulum, and used it as an illustration, looking down to her as I spoke. You know the story—how the pendulum of a clock was so discouraged at the number of times it had got to tick in a year, and how it finally was reconciled by remembering that it had to tick only one at a time.

"She did not stay to the after-meeting that day, but some days later I got a letter from her telling me she was so glad that I had used that illustration, because it had made it all plain to her. She was going to trust God to give her grace enough to get along with from day to day, and not worry about the rest.

"'I have bought a clock which shows the pendulum, to remind me of this,' she said, 'and I have talked so much about it that some one has called me "Lady Pendulum."'

"She signed her name to the letter 'Lady Pendulum', and that was the only name I knew her by for a long time. When I was ready to sail for home a box was brought me with a note from her. In the box was a beautiful clock, made so as to show the pendulum, and I have always kept this in my home to remind me of her.

"When I went back to England she was at church to greet me. She was a very wealthy woman, and able to do a great deal of good. I learned while I was there that time that she was keeping her grace alive by supporting several missionaries, and by doing many such things which her wealth made possible."

From a report of a service which Mr. Moody



THE LATE DWIGHT L. MOODY.

conducted with "Sowing and Reaping" for a subject, I quote these striking words:

"A man reaps what he sows. If he plants onions he doesn't gather wheat. If a man tells his son to go to the door and tell an unwelcome caller that his father is not at home he may expect that boy to lie to him inside of six months. A woman said to me: 'It is so strange we cannot get better servants.' I said: 'Madam, if you tell your maid to lie, and say you are not at home, you must expect her to lie to you.' 'Oh,' said she, 'that's only a society lie.'

"I tell you a society lie is just as bad as any other kind.

"A merchant in Chicago said to me: 'It is strange we cannot get honest clerks.' 'I said to him: 'If merchants tell their clerks to say a thing is all wool when they know it is half cotton, they must expect those clerks will steal.'

"A man reaps what he sows."

Although Mr. Moody's disapproval of the Sunday papers was often vigorously expressed, he thoroughly appreciated the value of the help of the press in general in carrying to hundreds of thousands his words, when otherwise they could have been heard only by hundreds. There were few services in which he failed to speak of this, or to thank God, in his prayer, for the help of the reporters and the papers. His relations with the reporters were always very happy, and he insisted that we be given every facility to do our work. A long table skirted the whole of the platform in Tremont Temple for us; there were always chairs enough for all who might by any chance happen to come in. There might be a hundred persons standing in the auditorium, for want of seats, but our chairs were always reserved for us, a wise provision, since sometimes a man could not come in until after the service had begun. On account of this I had a chance one day to see an interesting incident illustrating Mr. Moody's power over persons who did not expect to be impressed by him.

I had been talking one day about these meetings and Mr. Moody, with Mrs. Louise Chandler Moulton, the famous writer and unquestionably one of the most able, as she also is one of the most truly refined women in America. Mrs. Moulton had never seen Mr. Moody. She said she had often thought that she would like to see and hear him, because she had a curiosity to see what there was about a man, so uneducated as she had heard Mr. Moody to be, which people found so impressive.

I proposed that she come to one of the meetings, and she said that she would have done so except that by that time there were such crowds at Tremont Temple every day that one had to go an inconveniently long time before hand in order to get a seat. I told her to come when she could, and come directly up to the press table, to where I sat, and that I would see that she had a seat there. I thought nothing more of it, until, several days later, some one touched me on the shoulder, as I was writing away for dear life, and when I looked around there stood Mrs. Moulton. Fortunately we had plenty of chairs, and she had a good seat, right in front of the speaker. There must have been three thousand persons in the audience, that day, and Mr. Moody surpassed himself. I kept rushing away on the sheets of paper in front of me, for I was making "running copy," until in a moment's let up I happened to look around to Mrs. Moulton. Her eyes, filled with tears, were fixed on Mr. Moody's face with a look which showed that she was oblivious to everything except his words. When the service was over, and she thanked me, she said: "I understand his power, now."

Criticism never seemed to worry Mr. Moody. If anything, it stimulated him to new attacks. I remember once he read aloud a part of a letter which had been sent him, finding fault with something he had said. "If I talk about the sins of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob," he said, "it's all right; and you say, 'They were a bad lot:' but when I get at you for your sins, you don't like it. You say: 'It's too personal.'

"I don't care if people do take issue with what I say. When they get mad it shows that they are waking up. I would rather a man would get mad and go out of the room three times over than to sit there and reply to everything I say: 'That's so, Mr. Moody.' Such a man as that is the most discouraging of any.

"I used to be afraid I would hurt somebody's feelings. I've got over that. I'm afraid now that I won't; for if folks are not living right I want to make them know it."

His criticisms were not all for the laity, by any means. The ministers always got a good share. I find one place, where talking to the ministers who were present he said:

"If a man goes into the pulpit every Sunday and uses it only professionally, and puts no love in it, he might as well buy a tin horn and blow it. What the people want is to be fed, and then they will go to work. If you want a good flock of sheep you feed them well. 'Feed my sheep.' Feed them well, and don't put the fodder too high up in the racks. Sheep haven't got necks like camels. If you want a good church feed it on the word of God."

Coming back to the congregations again, he went on: "We don't want gush and sentiment. When I see a man shouting 'Glory Hallelujah!' and know that he don't treat his wife right, it makes a cold shiver run down my back. If a man has lost his influence in his home he has lost it in the church and in the world. We are to be doers of the Word. Stop and think. Are there any of you who have anything to do in the way of forgiving? Keep thinking. You look rather strange, some of you. It's no use for us to go on unless you are ready to begin at the bottom. Are you ready to forgive?"

The day's talk ended with that sentence. Mr. Moody waited a full minute;—the time, in the deathly still, densely crowded house seemed much longer. I quote one sentence from the prayer with which he closed the service: "As the report of this meeting goes out through the press, may many see and read, and be influenced to go and become reconciled to those from whom they are estranged."

THE PUEBLO SNAKE DANCE.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



THE SNAKE dance of the Pueblo Indians or Moquis, takes place during the month of August. It is the last of a series of religious observances which continue for nine days, and its object is to bring rain.

In the Moquis tribe there are two secret societies, known as the Snakes and Antelopes. Each of these societies is presided over by priests, and it is considered a great honor by the Moquis to belong to either order.

Before the ceremony numbers of snakes are captured and after being washed and covered with sacred meal by the priests, are kept in a safe enclosure.

At the beginning of the ceremony the Antelopes appear, headed by their priests. They march to the enclosure containing the snakes and then circle around it, stamping vigorously to notify the powers that the ceremony is about to begin. Then the Snake fraternity appear and go through the same performance.

Both societies now join in lines facing each other. Then one member of the Snakes and one of the Antelopes run to the enclosure where the priest in authority hands them a snake. This the Snake brother places in his mouth, holding the center of the reptile's body between his teeth, and marches around, the Antelope man meanwhile accompanying him and stroking the snake with a bunch of feathers tied to the end of a wand.

The other members of the societies follow suit and soon each man of the Snake fraternity has one or two reptiles in his mouth and several more in his hands. Now and then one of the snakes, which are principally rattlesnakes, is dropped purposely, and an Indian whose special duty this is, re-captures it. Though the snakes are handled carelessly the performers are rarely bitten, but even in this case, the Moquis possess a powerful antidote for snake bite, so death never results.

While all this is going on the rest of the tribe, both men and women, chant a weird melody. At last all the reptiles are dropped inside a sacred circle marked by the priests. Then the members of the brotherhoods rush in, seize all the reptiles they can carry and run over the plains at full speed, finally letting them go, to carry to the gods the prayers for rain.

The societies on their return bathe in a green fluid, the composition of which is best known to themselves, and then take a powerful emetic to purge themselves from the effects of snake handling. After this has been thoroughly effected they sit down to a kind of communion service of bread given them by the women, and the ceremony is over.

Though all this seems ridiculous as well as somewhat disgusting to us, it must be remembered that to the Indians this rite has the deepest religious significance, and is, on that account, entitled to respect. At the present time the Pueblos have had the advantages of Christian teaching and have abandoned some of their most cruel and religious rites, but they cling to some of their old traditions and among them the Snake dance.

THE latest idea for a dance is a golf cotillion. Golf itself is not to be introduced into the dance, but the girls have planned to use as favors all the necessities for playing the game—golf sticks and golf balls, golf waistcoats, knitted stockings and caps, (which, by the way, are made by the girls themselves,) and golfstick-holders will figure largely, and the dancers will go home laden with a new supply of outfits for their favorite out-of-door game.

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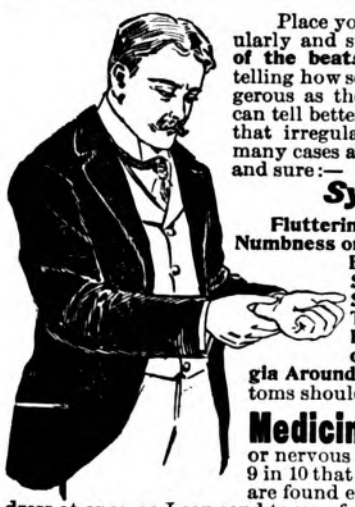
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Men, Women and Things.

CONDUCTED BY JENNIE MELVENE DAVIS.



The "Amazon of Journalism" is a term that has been applied to Mrs. Frank Leslie. "Napoleonic" is another expression of the fact that a woman has made one of the greatest successes in the history of publishing. The story of Mrs. Leslie's life has all the elements of romance and of plain, practical business life. Mrs. Leslie herself has the dual nature of keen, clear headed executive ability that has enabled her to build up and maintain a great publishing business, and of the charming woman who attracts friends through her own personality. She is of Southern birth, having been born in New Orleans where she received her early education. She is of Huguenot descent and the result of French blood and Southern training may be seen in her manner. Not all the business training and experience nor the hurried rush of New York life has changed the exquisite courtesy or the real femininity of Frank Leslie. She was taught to speak French, Italian and Spanish, and her facility as a linguist has been an element in her great social success abroad. She commenced to write when thirteen years of age. Mrs. Leslie has the rich many sided nature that must of necessity find an outlet in expression, and the name of Miriam Florence was known in the literary world before its young owner became editor of one of Frank Leslie's publications. In a short time she became the wife of the famous publisher. But Mrs. Leslie never ceased to advise with her husband on business matters. She entertained the Emperor and Empress of Brazil at her Saratoga villa "Interlaken" and entertained them with no less a degree of luxury than they were accustomed to. One of Mrs. Leslie's books, From Gotham to the Golden Gate, was written after her trip westward in a special Pullman train that carried many of the staff of Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper. These artists and writers filled the pages of the paper with accounts of the journey, but Mrs. Leslie's book has all the finish of a veteran writer and all the keen appreciation of changing scenes of a sympathetic woman. Shortly after this innovation in journalism, Mr. Leslie became involved and was forced to make an assignment. Just as he completed plans for the recovery of his fallen fortunes he died. He asked his wife to carry on his plans. By act of legislature she became "Frank Leslie" and with all the splendid force of the man who had made the name famous and with a keen, aggressive yet conservative determination all her own, she won victory from defeat. Her phenomenal business success is well known. She was able at last to leave her desk with an abundant income and the prospect of leisure. She had leased her Popular Monthly to a syndicate while her other interests were in the Arkell Publishing Company. She was preparing for a lengthy sojourn in Europe, where she numbers among her friends the best known people in public life, when the news of the failure of the Arkell Company came over the telephone. In the moment that a fortune was swept away she called up the "Monthly" and accepted the editorship and presidency of a stock company that was to publish the magazine. Frank Leslie is again actively engaged in the publishing business. She possesses the executive ability to master details and to oversee every department of business coupled with the daring and dash that has enabled her to make lightning decisions. She has the woman's intuition with all the force of a strong business man. So much for Frank Leslie the publisher. Frank Leslie the woman is no less admired by all who come within the influence of her gracious presence. That she is a beautiful woman has been said in almost every language and every newspaper in the world. She is a woman with a kindly word and a helping hand to all women who are making the struggle that she has turned into success. Her beautiful gowns, her jewels and her presence would suggest the lady of fashion; her simple, direct manner and her instant grasp of a situation would suggest the man of affairs; but the expression of her great gray eyes and the sensitiveness of mouth show the true womanly woman. It is as that, that Frank Leslie has won her greatest success.

Edwin Markham is widely known as the author of the poem that has moved the literary world and the great army of thinkers who study the relations of capital and labor. The one poem "The Man With the Hoe", has made its author famous wherever the English language is spoken. The income from the sale of his writings has made Mr. Markham independent. Edwin Markham was born in Oregon City, Oregon, in 1852. While he was still a child his father died and his mother brought up the family. She kept a very successful store in the city and also found time to contribute both prose and poetry to the local papers. When the boy was nine his mother purchased a sheep ranch in Central California and here the boy learned the life of the toiler in the hard struggle of life upon a farm. Before he was fifteen he had written a poem "A Dream of Chaos." He finally made his way through schools and colleges until he became a teacher. He has held various positions as principal and superintendent, for it was not until the last year that he decided to devote himself to literature. For fourteen years the thought of the celebrated poem was with him. Millet's picture "The Man With the Hoe" suggested to Mr. Markham the idea of the poem. The poem was completed on New Year's Day, 1899. It was first published in the San Francisco Examiner. Its success was instantaneous and phenomenal. Mr. Markham has been hailed as the future poet of America. He lives at present in Washington, D. C.. and he is much in demand as a lecturer. The task of living up to the reputation he so suddenly achieved is no small one, but those who know Mr. Markham believe that he is capable of sustained and remarkable work.



The Countess Schimmelmaun's life story reads more like a page from the old days of knight errantry than like a record of this matter-of-fact century. The Countess is the daughter of one of the highest peers of Denmark and a granddaughter of a Prime Minister. When she was eighteen, she made her debut at the German court. The Empress Augusta chose her as lady of honor and for eighteen years she was the confidential friend of the Empress. During this time she met the leading statesmen, rulers and soldiers of the day and had the highest social honors of the court of Berlin. All the glitter and show failed to satisfy her soul. She says she longed for something higher and better. She studied her Bible and came to believe that Christianity from the Bible standpoint was a different thing from the generally accepted standards. Two events at this time made a powerful impression upon her mind. She visited the prisons of Berlin and spent a summer on one of the islands of the Baltic. Gradually the determination came to her to give her time and money to the relief of the needy and unfortunate, those whom the battle of life had gone against. She was especially interested in the poor sailors and fishermen of the Baltic. For ten years she carried on a work among them. The Emperor and Empress approved of her project and gave it substantial aid. She owns great estates in Denmark and all her income is given to the advancement of her philanthropic schemes. Her relatives have tried to prevent her from spending her money in this way and at one time confined her in an asylum. She was released through the efforts of powerful friends at court and pursued her labor of love and devotion to humanity with greater zeal than before. She purchased the royal pleasure yacht of Prince Waldemar of Denmark in order to reach her people more easily. She named the yacht *Duen*, or Dove. Since then the *Duen* has become known almost around the world. The work begun among the fishermen and sailors of the Baltic has extended, until the Countess has temporarily exhausted her fortune. Last summer she came to America. Her first stopping place was at Quebec, and since then she has made the tour of the lakes and the *Duen* is now in the harbor of New York. Last year the Countess visited over a hundred ships. She holds services on board her own ship and on those she visits. As long as her funds hold out she has a free coffee and tea kitchen on board the ship. In this way the Countess has fed thousands. She does not believe in the methods of organized charity with its inquisition of questions, but she literally obeys the command, "Feed the hungry, clothe the naked." The Countess is unmarried. She has adopted three sons whom she is educating. During her stay in New York she has spoken once or twice before large audiences. She tells the story of her life in good English. She says that she expects that money to carry on her work will come from some source as her own means are exhausted at present. For thirteen years her life has been one of great self denial and pure unselfishness. The Countess is now forty-five years of age. She is simple and direct in her manner and seems to have no other aim in life than to give herself, her time and her wealth to doing the service of Christ as He commanded in His word.

Gen. Redvers H. Buller, V. C., a famous officer in Her Majesty's army in South Africa, is a heavy, large-boned man with few society graces. He seems almost ungainly, with a severe face and a curt, incisive manner. He is straightforward in manner and determined in purpose. In many ways he resembles the Boers whom he hopes to overcome. He is tenacious of purpose, quiet and seemingly phlegmatic but with a masterful way that inspires confidence. He was but nineteen years of age when he procured his commission and entered the English army. Since then he has seen service in many lands. He was a member of the famous Red River expedition and won the favor and approval of his superior officer, Gen. Wolseley. He was made a chief officer in an expedition against the Ashantees and then was sent into South Africa. Here he won a reputation for cool daring and bravery and also as a thorough drill master. He won his V. C., or Victoria Cross, by his act when the British forces were retreating down a steep, rocky hill with the savages in close pursuit, when he took a wounded officer behind him on his horse. He carried him to a place of safety and then twice again performed the same act of valor. In 1882 he had become "Sir" Redvers and he then entered upon the famous Egyptian campaign. Again in 1885 he saw service on the Nile in one of England's most disastrous campaigns. Instances might be multiplied of the great executive ability and calm courage that distinguish the British commander. He has known rebuff, retreat and defeat but he has shown an ability to bring order out of chaos and to snatch victory when defeat seemed inevitable. He has not seen active service since the Nile campaign until the day he landed in South Africa. He had a brief service in Ireland and temporarily filled the position of under secretary for Ireland. He has had plenty of experience in detail and bureau work and is the author of the Infantry Drill Book, which is said to be the best book of its kind ever written. Gen. Buller is sixty years of age but it is safe to say, in spite of reverses, that the South African command could not have fallen into abler hands.



Ruth McEnery Stuart is one of a group of Southern women who have won distinction with the pen. Her stories of Southern life are marked by a rare sense of humor. She writes both prose and poetry and has been a constant contributor to all the leading magazines. Mrs. Stuart has a quiet, strong face, with calm, dark eyes and mobile features. There is a repose about her that is very restful. She sometimes reads from her published books and although she disclaims any gift as an elocutionist still those who hear her receive a never forgotten impression. The soft, slow voice and the Southern accent are peculiarly fitted to the dialect stories of the negro as he seemed "befo de wah". Mrs. Stuart is of Scotch descent. Her son is called Sterling Stuart and is a popular member of the Boys' High School of New York, where he has won no small fame as an all round athlete. Mrs. Stuart has a charming apartment in New York during the winter and in summer she has a home on Onteora mountain. Here she finds time for her favorite diversion—the study of mycology. She collects all the varieties of edible mushrooms and then proves that she can cook the tidbits as well as distinguish them from the common toad stools. Mrs. Stuart has won the greatest fame as a short story writer. There is a strong personal element in her work that seems to bring her own personality close to the reader. There is an undercurrent of the pathos that always goes with humor. This is very noticeable in her poems. She has won both financial and literary success and is generally acknowledged as one of the leading literary workers of the day.

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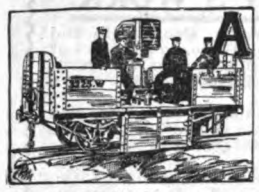
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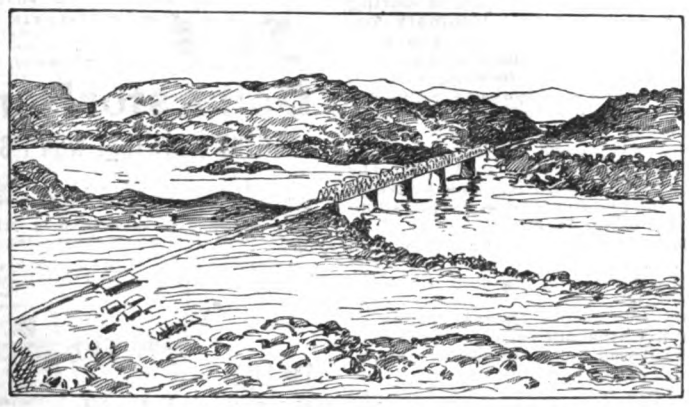
Progress of the South African War.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



A PERSON reading the newspaper accounts of the Boer war will often feel confused as to the situation and the conduct of the war. The South African republic, which is commonly called the Transvaal, is in general appearance a square strip of territory bounded on the south by the Vaal River, which is the northern boundary of the Orange Free State, which is an ally of the Transvaal. Almost in the center and toward the south of the Transvaal is the capital, Pretoria, and a short distance to the southwest is Johannesburg. The objective point of the British campaign will necessarily be Pretoria, the capital. Neither of these states have any sea coast but are surrounded by British territory. The great problem which the British have to overcome is the keeping open of lines of communication, which are something like eight hundred miles in length, and which by a flank movement on the part of the alert Boers could be easily cut.

The principal fighting at the present time is not in the Transvaal itself, but in the British territory near the Orange Free State to the south of it. On the extreme west is the city of Kimberley, with its valuable diamond mines, which is now being besieged. On the extreme right, and within the British territory of Cape Colony, is the city of Ladysmith, which is on the line of railroad from the coast to Pretoria. This is also being besieged and bombarded by the Boers. South of this and nearer the coast is Pietermaritzburg, within the province of the same name. This is but a short distance from the Indian Ocean coast and is a city of considerable size. It is from here that a great many of the telegrams are sent giving accounts of the siege of Ladysmith. Many of these are brought in by native runners who are clad only in a breech clout and are painted to the color of the desert sands, and manage to work their way from the besieged city through the Boer lines into English territory. The city of Mafeking is also being besieged. This city is on the extreme west of the Transvaal republic, just inside English territory and far to the north of Kimberley. It is about these three points, or on the roads leading to them, that the different fights have occurred. The country, especially on the east side, is very mountainous, and the Boers are fighting on strategic points heavily intrenched and on the defensive.



THE BATTLEFIELD AT COLENSO.

Readers will remember that a man intrenched is considered to be equal to three men in the open. Calculations of military men at the present time make this number even greater, giving one intrenched man with modern equipment an equality with five men fighting in the open. By this it will be seen the great difficulty that the English have in driving these Boers from their line of defense.

The average reader pays little attention to the events which bring about a war; and although much was printed previous to the actual fighting, very few of the more intelligent readers really understand what the war is about. There is a great deal of sentiment about it being a sister republic and many other things raised pro and con which really have little bearing on the case. This war, like many others, is really brought about by commercial spirit, and throwing all sentiment aside is the old question of the survival of the fittest. The Boers represent a civilization of two centuries ago, and with all their good qualities are unprogressive and are standing in the way of the future development of Africa. The British represent commercial supremacy and advanced civilization and modern progress, and their way is blocked by the Transvaal republic. No matter what the excuse is, or what the reasons for actual warfare may be, there is undoubtedly the desire on the part of the great owners and tax payers of the Transvaal, who are not Dutch, to have the republic itself under English law and English dominion, and this is the real reason of the present fight.

To the impartial observer, as we have said, it would seem to be a case of the survival of the fittest. The sentiment that the Dutch are being driven out of their own country by English conquest would be just as applicable to the natives whom the Dutch drove out of the same territory. When they crossed the Vaal river and took possession of this country they were for years fighting the determined warriors of the African tribes who were in full possession of the country and had been peaceable and never gave up their possession until the Dutch Boers conquered them; and this is within the memory of a large proportion of the readers of this paper. This is merely written to show that there are all sides to all questions. A paper published in this country recently a translation of the demands which were made by the foreign residents before the declaration of war during the crisis. What the Uitlander demands as formulated in the official papers was as follows:



GEN. KITCHENER OF KHARTOUM.

1. The right to vote for the real legislative authority—the First Chamber of the Volksraad, not the impotent Second Chamber.
2. Such a redistribution of seats for the goldfields in the Volksraad as will give to them a proper representation. At present there is none at all. The Transvaal now offers one-fifth, but the Uitlanders represent three-fifths of the people. They pay nine-tenths of the taxation, yet they have nothing to say about the expenditure of a penny. Americans justly went to war with us on account of taxation without representation, and Uitlanders parallel their case with that of our forefathers.
3. A Constitution safeguarded from sudden changes. At present an ordinary resolution of the Volksraad may change the existing Constitution.
4. The heads of the Government responsible to the Volksraad.
5. Independence of the courts. At present, if a judge does not respect any chance vote of the Volksraad, he is dismissed from office. Chief Justice Kotze was so dismissed. This, in the opinion of many, is the great demand; the trouble is not so much a matter of the franchise. The most necessary reform is to free the judges from all interference by the Executive and the Volksraad. In all rightly governed countries the judges on the bench should be, like Cæsar's wife, above suspicion.



GENERAL P. A. CRONJE.

6. Cancellation of monopolies. This, of course, is far less important than the foregoing; it can more easily be adjusted.
7. Equality in recognition by the courts of the English and Dutch languages, just as we have it in Cape Colony.
8. Removal of religious disabilities. Neither Roman Catholics nor Jews may hold office.
9. Reorganization of the civil service.
10. A free press.
11. Proper schools.
12. Freer trade.

Americans are intelligent and there are very few that would not be with the Uitlanders in the present struggle if they were in South Africa. The fact that the Transvaal government denies all political, municipal and civil rights to the majority of the population, while the majority contribute nine-tenths of the money for the support of the same government, is a fact which will show any American how he naturally would feel. English papers claim that nine out of every ten Americans in the Transvaal support the Uitlander demands; and what is true of them is also true of German and French who are there, although their governments at home are bitterly hostile to the British policy.

All these points are contended by the Dutch republic, which claims entire rights over the country and that they wish to be let alone. They are an upright, God-fearing race of men, stubborn in their convictions and rather slow of comprehension, but undoubtedly having full faith in the righteousness of their present conflict.

The foregoing is not written with any intention to take sides in the contest; but to give COMFORT'S readers a clearer idea of the causes which led to the present unhappy struggle. In the same manner without attempting a historical story of the progress of the war we shall endeavor to give a concise statement of the military movement to show our readers the present situation. And it must be remembered that when this reaches the readers' eyes nearly a month will have elapsed since it was written and great changes may have taken place. At the time of writing (New Year's) both sides are quiet. The Boers are preparing for further resistance on the defensive, while the British are anxiously awaiting reinforcements to make another attempt to advance to the relief of the besieged cities. And near these armies are the points at which decisive battles may be fought any day.

As was above pointed out, there are three points now invested by the Boers and to the relief of which separate columns have been despatched. It must be remembered at the beginning that the Boers on declaring war rushed over the border and at once commenced investing three cities situated in three points; and all of great value and difficult to relieve.

To the westward is Kimberley. This is the city where the diamond mines are situated and where Cecil Rhodes, the African Magnate, has his headquarters. Although surrounded by the Boers, the garrison and inhabitants have successfully held out against them for several weeks and successfully repelled every assault. To the relief of this point Gen. Methuen's army is advancing from the south from Cape Colony along the line of railroad. His march has been checked all the way from De Aar by the Boers destroying the bridges and roadbed. Several battles were fought on the line; at Orange river, with heavy loss on both sides; at Belmont, Graspan and Modder river, only 25 miles from Kimberley. It was a terrible slaughter at the last place and a practical defeat for Methuen although the British still hold their ground unable to advance further.

The second, or Central army under Gen. Gatacre is moving upon the Orange Free State with the intention of reaching its objective point of Bloemfontein, the capital. This column met with an overwhelming reverse at Stormberg, on December 10th, where it unexpectedly met a strong Boer army, which ambushed the advancing force. So severe was this defeat that further advance was impossible and may lead to the abandonment of this line of action.

The third column is led by Sir Redvers Buller, of whom much was expected as he was the commander-in-chief of all the British forces in South Africa. This army landed at Durban on the East coast and hastened forward to the relief of Gen. White besieged at Ladysmith, the point to which the English at Glencoe fell back at the beginning of the conflict. On the 14th of December, Buller attempted to cross the Tugela river at Colenso and met with a crushing repulse in which he lost 1097 men, sixty-five being officers. He also lost 11 cannon, which was three times as many as Wellington lost to Napoleon in the whole Peninsular campaign. At this writing the success is entirely with the Boers; but the concensus of public opinion shows general belief in Boer defeat in time.

The Boer generals who have so distinguished themselves are Gen. P. A. Cronje, who defeated Lord Methuen at Modder river, and his superior General Piet Joubert, who defeated Buller himself and whose strategical ability so far has proven more than a match for the whole English Military Council. In England there has been a great outcry against the War Office, much as existed in this country during the Spanish War. Gen. Roberts, the Afghan hero, has been sent to Africa in supreme command. Gen. Lord Kitchener of Khartoum, the conqueror of the Mahdi, goes as his Chief of staff.

Among the devices made use of in this war are searchlights. Our initial cut shows how one from the ship *Powerful* was mounted on an armored car. It is said by employing a screen, signals from this light at Ladysmith have been flashed thirty miles. The other picture represents the exact scene of the terrible battle at Colenso. The level ground near the bridge is where the guns were captured. The banks of the stream are very steep with the edges partially covered by low brush, but on the south side of the river from where the picture is taken, there is absolutely no shelter, not even a tree.



LORD ROBERTS OF KANDAHAR.

The Boers were sheltered by the south bank of the river and firmly entrenched on the north bank and are said to have had a superior army to Buller's. Without proper reconnoisance he advanced and when attacked in his attempt to cross the river was at the mercy of the alert and mobile foe. At any time we may look for news of startling character as men and supplies are being rushed forward in desperate haste to succor the English.

TWO FINE SPECIMENS

Of Physical Manhood.

No form of athletic exercise demands such perfect physical condition as prize fighting. Every muscle in the body must be fully developed and supple, and the heart, lungs and stomach must act to perfection.

Whether we endorse prize-fighting or not, it is nevertheless interesting to know the manner by which men arrive at such physical perfection.

James Jefferies, the present champion heavy weight of the world, and his gallant opponent, Tom Sharkey, in the greatest pugilistic encounter that has ever taken place, both pursued much the same course of training and the first and most important part of this training was to get the stomach in condition, and keep the digestion absolutely perfect, so that every muscle and nerve would be at its highest capabilities.

This was not done by a secret patent medicine, but both of these great pugilists used a well known natural digestive tablet sold by druggists under name of Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets and composed of the digestive ferments which every stomach requires for healthy digestion.

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The advantage of the daily use of Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets is that they keep the people well and ward off sickness and are equally valuable to well persons as to the dyspeptics. Another advantage is that these tablets contain no cathartics, or poisons of any character, but simply digestive ferments which are found in every healthy stomach, and when digestion is imperfect it is because the stomach lacks some of these elements and Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets supply it.

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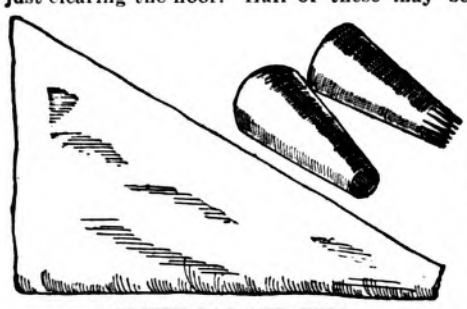
THERE is nothing more fascinating to the housewife than the decoration of the table for dinner parties, Christmas and Thanksgiving feasts, and all of the other extra times when we may indulge in something that is not strictly to be eaten.

At all times one may have a silver or china jardiniere filled with ferns and a cocoa palm, for the center of the table, and this gives the eye something restful to look at and at the same time makes the meal seem more cosey and cheerful,—setting off the cloth and silver and glass by way of contrast.

In addition to this regular decoration, vines may be used to run out to the ends and sides of the table from the centerpiece—or, if there are to be a number of covers and the room for this cannot be spared, use silver candelabra on either end of the table, and decorate the chandelier, over the center of the table, with as much green as can be obtained.

At a recent lunch for ladies, a novel idea was the formation, from the green centerpiece, of rays of narrow red ribbon, one end of each piece ending at each cover, and the other end being tucked carefully into the green at the center. After the lunch had been served, each guest was told to pull on the end of the ribbon, and at the other end was found a card, which was hidden in the greenery, and which had upon it a question to be answered and a line of poetry. Simply an idea for keeping people busy either in answering the question or in wondering from what poem the verse was chosen.

An idea for a doorway is suggested, which is particularly appropriate for the door leading into the dining room. A pole should be fastened across the top of the door, inside the frame, and from this hang ropes of evergreen, just clearing the floor. Half of these may be



PASTRY BAG AND ENDS.

tied back with a ribbon, or all may be left to hang, as they are easily pushed aside on passing through the door.

Next to the table decoration comes the decoration of the dainties which milady serves to her guests.

It often happens that for a luncheon or tea, there is little that can be served which looks really attractive, except the salad, or a dessert that can be served with a quantity of whipped cream. Then the dish is made specially pretty by the use of the pastry bag, for putting on the dressing, or the cream.

A pastry bag is made of a square of rubber cloth, usually about ten inches square. Fold over the two opposite corners toward the center, and seam up on the machine the two edges coming together, leaving at the point an inch that has not been sewed. Cut off the little point of cloth that sticks out at this corner, and a small opening will remain, just large enough for the insertion, from the inside, of tubes, or tin ends. We give an illustration of a bag and two of the ends most common, one of which is plain, and the other cut in points—called the rose tube. The tube is pushed into the bag, and then the bag is filled with the dressing or whipped cream or beaten egg—whatever is to be used, and forced through the tube. When all is used, the bag is simply washed and hung up to dry, and is then ready for the next time. The bags cost from 35 cents up to 75, according to size, but can be made for considerably less by buying the rubber cloth. The tubes cost ten cents each. Confectioners who are experts often use simply a cornucopia of stiff paper, for the frosting of cake etc., and arrive at the very best results—but for the beginner it is easier to have the stiff point from which to squeeze the dressing, and then the roses or vines are more likely to be uniform in size. A salad thus decorated is much more attractive than when the dressing is simply stirred in—and a shortcake, or uncovered pie, such as lemon, looks quite festive when decorated with these vines and roses of frosting.



APRICOT FOAM.

Many people do not know what delicious pies may be made from stewed apricot. The dried apricots may be bought at all times of the year, and when stewed with sugar and strained they make a very good pie for a change. This sort of a pie should have strips of the crust across the top, instead of a top crust, to make it more attractive.

Apricot is also delicious when stewed, strained and beaten up with the whites of eggs. For this, half a pound of apricots should be soaked in lukewarm water over night; in the morning add a cup of sugar and stew until soft; rub through a strainer and set away to cool. Just before time to serve, beat the whites



BAKED SQUASH.

of two eggs to a stiff froth and then beat in the apricot and pile onto a glass dish. Serve very cold.

How many of you have ever thought of baking your squash, instead of steaming? Of course small squash should be used, as they are served whole. For this, cut out a small circle around the stem and remove the seeds; brush the inside with butter, shake in a little salt and pepper and bake. Serve the squash whole, on a napkin, and in serving each person, cut a piece from the squash following the lines of indentation on the rind.

WHY WOMEN ARE NERVOUS.

[*British Medical News.*]

The frequent cases of nervous prostration or utter collapse of the nervous system under which women "go all to pieces," as the saying is, have caused much thought and investigation on the part of physicians.

Certain inorganic substances are well known to cause various forms of nervous diseases which are readily traced to the poisons producing them. Further research leads to the belief that alum is a prevailing cause of so-called nervous prostration, for the symptoms it produces on the nervous system after its absorption into the blood are very remarkable indeed. Experiments physiologically made upon animals by Orfila, Professors Hans Mayer, Paul Seim and others, show that alum frequently produces no visible symptoms for many days after its introduction into the body. Then follow loss of appetite and other alimentary disturbances, and finally a serious prostration of the whole nervous system. The most prominent physicians now believe that "nervous prostration" and many affections of the nerves from which both men and women suffer are caused by the continued absorption of alum into the system.

It is probable that many medical men are unaware of the extent to which salts of alumina may be introduced into the body, being under the impression that the use of alum in bread is prohibited. Alum, however, is still used surreptitiously to some extent to whiten bread, and very largely in making cheap kinds of baking powder. In families where baking powder is generally used great care should be exercised to procure only those brands made from cream of tartar. The alum powders may generally be distinguished by the lower price at which they are sold.

ONE of the most remarkable rings in the world is "The Ring of the Fisherman", worn by the Pope and handed down by each one to his successor. In this ring St. Peter is seen sitting in a boat and holding in each hand a net. This ring is kept in charge by the grand chamberlain of his Holiness, and, in the event of his death the name of the Pope is at once erased from its surface and the name of his successor is engraved upon it immediately upon his election to the office.

FERROL, the principal naval arsenal of Spain, lies on the north arm of the Bay of Betanzas. Its harbor is one of the best in Europe, and is entered by a narrow strait, still guarded by the canties of San Felipe and Palma, mounting several guns. The town is strongly fortified on the land side. Its vast arsenal and dock yard cover twenty-four acres, and comprise many magnificent storehouses and docks. There are two dry docks, the larger being four hundred and seventy-four feet long.

FREDERIC Macmonnies, the sculptor, has his studio and grounds fitted up with models which are a terror to human visitors. A raging panther occupies a cage in one corner, while various other wild beasts are quartered here both in house and grounds. Four beautiful, high-spirited horses have the freedom of the place and are sometimes driven at full speed across and across the sunny garden-court for hours at a time in order that the artist may study their anatomy and action, and imitate them in clay.

THE first pension ever granted to a Chinaman was issued July 20 to Ah Yu, of Shanghi, China. Ah Yu has faithfully served Uncle Sam since July, 1884, as landsman, mess assistant and cabin steward. His last service was when attached to Admiral Dewey's flagship, the Olympia, in 1897. Since then he has been in a hospital at Yokohama, suffering from a disease of the lungs, and has at last, becoming no better and there being no hopes of his ever becoming so, been discharged from the service and pensioned for the remainder of his days. His pension calls for $30 per month, with back pay amounting to $510.

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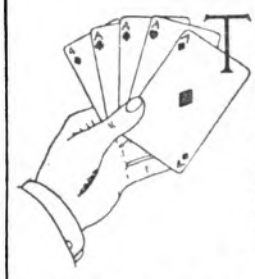
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The Origin of Playing Cards.



THE costumes of the pictured playing cards of the ordinary pack are very quaint, and one would hardly suppose them to have been copied originally from real people. It is a fact, however, that the king is Henry VIII., though on the present cards only a few suggestions remain of the peculiarities of his costume, which at one time was covered with correct heraldic devices. The king of hearts is the most warlike in appearance, bearing as he does an uplifted sword, as if in the act of striking. The king of spades is armed with a battle axe; the king of clubs and also of diamonds bears a doubled-edged sword.

At one time cards were influenced by the Italian fashions imported into France by Catherine de Medici, and after the French revolution the kings of the pack were changed to represent sages and philosophers; but the kings and queens returned to the pack when the monarchy was restored.

The queen of the cards is said to be Elizabeth of York, mother of Henry VIII., and the rose of York in her hand has been preserved up to date.

The grotesque dress of the knaves of the pack has remained practically unchanged during centuries. It was taken from the ordinary costume of the lower classes. The knave of hearts has a battle axe in one hand and a laurel leaf in the other. The queer looking emblem in the hand of the knave of clubs is supposed to be an arrow. The knave of diamonds holds a pike with a hook. The twist ribbon on the knave of spades is supposed to have been intended to represent the fool's staff, with the gay ribbons twined around it. The knave is called Jack from his fool's dress, the slang name for a jester being Jack.

It is said that the gypsies brought the first cards into Europe about the time of the Crusades; they used them then as they do now, for fortune-telling. Packs originally contained seventy-two cards. Several kinds of cards are used in China, one pack having thirty-two covered with small circular dots in red and black, the court cards being of one man and one woman. Chinese cards are usually printed in black on thin cardboard, one inch wide by three and a half inches long.

Whist is of Chinese origin.

THE elephants of the Indian army are fed in a peculiar way. The ten pounds of rice which make a breakfast for one of them is done up in leaves and tied with grass. The animals are drawn up in line before a row of piles of this food. At the word of command each elephant raises his trunk and one of these bundles is thrown into his capacious mouth. This is continued until every elephant has received his allotment of food.

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Contributors must without exception be regular subscribers to Comfort, and every contribution must bear the writer's own name and post-office address in full.

Original letters only, which deal with matters of general interest, will be published. They must be as brief, plain and correct as the writers can make them, and may vary in length from one hundred to four hundred words. Only letters of exceptional merit and interest may reach six hundred and fifty words. Contributors must write on one side of the paper only.

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DEAR NIECES AND NEPHEWS:

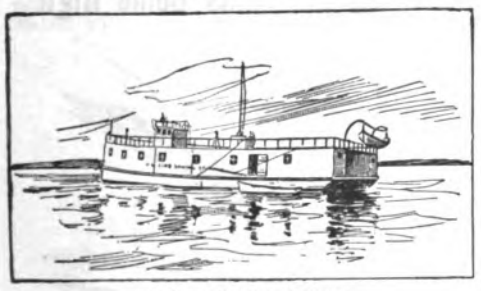
Again we have rounded out the year that dates back in its beginning to this, the shortest of all the months, but which, short as it is, holds in its embrace so many events of historic interest. Like all her brothers and sisters, February is a many sided month, and her smiles or frowns depend entirely upon the spot from which we view her. To our cousin of the first letter, who writes from the bleak shores of Massachusetts, she shows a frozen face; while to the soldier in the Philippines who sends us the second she smiles with warm and sunny grace.

And so it ever is. In our mental as well as in our physical lives we cannot all see the golden side of the shield, but we can all do our best in the spot where we are placed and remember how true it is that—

"Life, my dear, is what you make it,
And the world is as you take it."

But now let us attend to our mail. Here is a letter on the life saving station near Boston, Massachusetts.

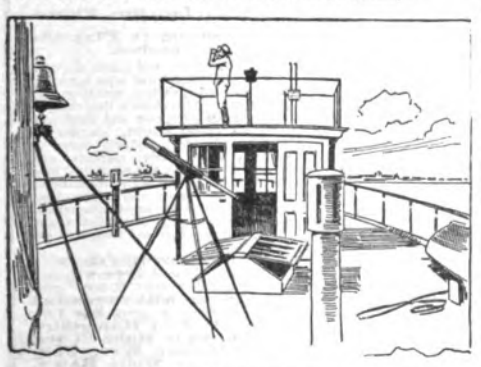
"In Dorchester Bay, near Boston, the United States Government has been trying an experiment in the shape of a floating life-saving station which



LIFE-SAVING STATION.

has worked very successfully. This is the only station of the kind in the country, if not in the world, except one much smaller at the falls in the Kentucky River, at Louisville.

"Dorchester Bay is the place where nearly all the yacht clubs of Boston rendezvous. Sometimes two hundred boats can be counted under sail there at one time, and there are also many rowboats and many bathers. On account of the numerous accidents there, and too often deaths by drowning, the Government established this station. It is a big, flat boat, shaped like a huge flatiron, and is anchored in the bay from the first of May until the middle of November. Ten men, including Captain E. C. Glawson, live on board all of the time. A lookout is built on the top of the upper deck and in this, day and night, a man is all the time on watch for accidents. Two gasoline launches are ready to start at a moment's notice to carry out the captain and men to the rescue. Since the station has been there it has saved many lives and thousands of dollars worth of property.



LOOKOUT TOWER ON LIFE-SAVING STATION.

"I was spending a day on the station not long ago. It was hot, or would have been except for a strong wind which had tempted a number of sail boats out. I had been sitting on deck, talking with the captain, when all at once he shouted, 'Ring the alarm!' and disappeared down through a scuttle before I knew anything was the matter. A bell began to clang and the men, who all wear white duck suits, began to tumble into the boats. It took just forty-five seconds for the launch to get under way, towing a tender behind. The captain had seen a cat-boat, about a quarter of a mile away, capsize. There were two boys in her. They clung to the keel until the launch reached them and then were brought to the station and given dry clothes while their clothes were hung out on a line on deck to dry. The boat was towed ashore and beached. The day before the launch rescued a party of six who had been capsized in a sloop and who must almost certainly have drowned if it had not been for this timely aid." MAX BENNETT THRASHER.

Next comes a description, sent us by an old friend, of a curiosity in the way of a potter.

"Among the curious places of interest in Biloxi, Mississippi, none more deserve mention than the art pottery owned by Mr. George Ohr of that place. This curious shop is the greatest show place in town and its owner has become famous at home and abroad by the quaint and almost indescribable shapes he has fashioned out of clay.

"The building is about half a dozen stories high, each one smaller than the one just below, and the inside is most oddly constructed, while on the shelves and ranged around the walls are countless designs from which one may select some unique specimen of pottery. Mr. Ohr is a genial, pleasant faced man, and is most courteous to all his visitors, but as he fashions the clay in whatever design happens to impress itself on his mind at the time, it is



GEORGE E. OHR'S CURIOUS POTTERY.

a peculiarity that but one thing of a kind is ever found on his shelves.

"One of the greatest curiosities of this odd shop is the puzzle drinking cup from which, if one knows the secret, he may drink without spilling, but not a drop will come to the mouth of those not in the secret. Visitors always buy some specimen and often get a souvenir gift from the owner. Among the quaint compositions are the queerest sort of pipes, quaintly shaped inkstands and flower vases, and almost anything one may wish for. If the article desired is not in stock Mr. Ohr will make it while you wait for it. So satisfied is he of his skill in this line of work that he challenges the potters of the world to compete with him in producing unique and original designs."

LOUELLA SPENCE, Pass Christian, Miss.

About two or three months ago we had a letter written by a soldier in the Philippines, and now here is one from another soldier there; but as this one takes us into a comparatively unknown part of the islands I think you will find it interesting. The first letter was from Manila, I believe. Our correspondent says:

"Much has been said and written of our new possessions in the Philippines and their sullen inhabitants which have given our Government so much trouble; but the subject is still new, so a few words from the island of Jalo may be of interest to the readers of COMFORT.

"We took possession of this island on the tenth day of June, the Spaniards having already surrendered. The natives offered no resistance and are very friendly. The twenty-third infantry was sent here from Manila to relieve the Spanish garrison. Jalo is one of the most southerly of the Philippines and is only about six degrees north of the equator. The island of Borneo is our immediate neighbor, lying only twenty miles to the south-east, and may be seen on any clear day. The natives of Jalo are the same as those of Borneo. We have all heard of 'the wild man of Borneo', but none of us ever expected to own him, as we certainly now do. Most of the extreme southerly islands of the Philippines are inhabited by this race; though fierce and war-like in appearance we have had no trouble with them yet, and very possibly may never have. At first we momentarily expected an outbreak, but none came, and now things are relaxing a little as we get better acquainted. The natives all carry spears about eight feet in length and knives three feet long, which they wield with great dexterity. With the spear they have been seen to kill birds on the wing.

"They are a very strange class of people, wearing little or no clothing, and many of them so closely resemble the ape that they are never seen to speak. Those who do talk chatter precisely like apes and monkeys. They have no religion whatever, and do not even worship idols. They are repulsive and degraded, and the words used by Stanley in describing the natives of equatorial Africa will apply equally well to these people—'Ugly, uglier, ugliest'. They differ very much from the Filipinos of Luzon Island, the Filipino being vastly the more intelligent. These people call themselves Moros, never having heard of Aguinaldo, or the island of Luzon. They think the island of Borneo is the largest country in the world, and cannot be made to understand the magnitude of the United States.

"Jalo is healthfully situated and the climate is delightful; the heat is not unbearable, and the nights are remarkably cool for a tropical country. The soil is very productive, almost any tropical product thriving in it. The water is good and very plentiful, and there has been little or no sickness among the soldiers since our arrival here.

"Many more interesting things might be said of our new possessions here, and if our kind Aunt will permit I may write again."

J. A. WOODS, Jalo Island, Philippines.

Now comes a visitor from a Kentucky tobacco field.

"I wonder how many of our cousins ever saw a field of growing tobacco. A brief description of the cultivation of a crop which forms one of the largest articles of commerce, and one which has made Kentucky famous, may interest Aunt Minerva's readers.

"In January or February a seed bed is prepared, generally upon a hillside with a southern slope, by piling a large amount of rubbish together and burning it. This is done to destroy any foreign seed that might be in the soil. After this the bed is dug up and the soil made very fine, then the seed is sown and a thin cloth placed over the bed to protect the small plants from insects.

"When the plants get about three inches high they are transplanted to the field which has been prepared for them by plowing up the field two or three times and harrowing it until the soil is in good condition; rows are then checked off about three and one-half feet apart each way and at each check a hill is made by a 'man with a hoe'. And then, when it rains, if the plants are large enough they are transplanted to the hills. After this the plants are cultivated until they get so large that a plow or cultivator cannot be run between the plants without damage to them. When the cultivator is stopped, sometimes before, the top is broken out of each plant, leaving from eight to twenty leaves on each one, according to the strength of the soil. Once a week after the top is broken out each plant has to be 'suckered', as it is called, which is nothing more than breaking out a small shoot that grows out where each leaf joins the main stalk of the plant.

"When the plants are ripe they are cut by splitting the stalk down the center to about three inches from the bottom and cutting off at the ground. The plants are then hung on a stick about four feet long, eight or ten plants to the stick, and hauled to a barn where these sticks are hung up. When a barn is filled, which is usually done in two days' time, a fire is started underneath the hanging plants which soon 'cures' them. Soon afterwards they are ready for 'stripping', which is done in damp weather, by pulling the leaves from the stalk and tying them up in small bundles or 'hands' of five to ten leaves in a 'hand.' When this work is completed the tobacco is packed into hogsheads and by using great pressure with a screw made for the purpose, two and three thousand pounds are pressed into a very small bulk. It is then ready for the manufacturers of plug tobacco, cigars, smoking tobacco, snuff, etc. Much tobacco of the inferior grades is used in great dying establishments and in many other ways."

J. W. COLE, Benton, Kentucky.

Our next letter is also from Kentucky, but is upon a very different subject from the last.

"On April 30, 1789, George Washington was inaugurated the first President of our nation. And as that day is now historic we celebrated its return in 1898 by visiting the old homestead of a man whom the people of the United States honored by conferring upon him in 1837 the office of Vice President of the country,—Colonel Richard M. Johnson.

"We started about eleven in the morning for the old plantation, which lies about five miles from Georgetown, Scott Co., Ky., and were soon at the village of Great Crossings, situated on both banks of the deep blue Elkhorn river, which winds its course through the 'Garden Spot of the World,' the blue-grass region of Kentucky. Passing through the village and over the fine pike with many beautiful residences on either side, we finally arrived at the end of our journey.

"Some large stone houses which had been used as schoolhouses for the Indians first attracted our attention. Colonel Johnson's old home is of brick, and has the ante-bellum appearance so noticeable all through the South. It is pillared up over a precipice on the north side with limestone rocks. Down in the back yard, a most beautiful lawn of blue grass dotted with violets, were many tall green trees, and a large, bottomless spring of pure water. Opposite this spring, on a little mound, was an old locust stump which is famous as being the rostrum from which Lafayette addressed the people of Kentucky on his celebrated visit to America in 1824.

"On the east side of the house white ducks were dabbling in a little brooklet that wends its way through the green meadows until it meets the Elkhorn, while on the south the cattle and horses were grazing.

"Col. Johnson, who was distinguished in his military career as well as in his office as Vice-President, is reputed to have been the slayer of the famous Indian Chief, Tecumseh, but as this latter is a much-disputed point, we do not vouch for its truth. Colonel Johnson died at Richmond, Va., and his body now rests under a stately monument at Louisville, Kentucky."

W. B. ELDER, Albany, Ky.

Still another letter on Washington and his times, but this one takes us to the historic old city of Boston.

"On this spot stood Washington, who looking down upon the floor below, said 'One would have thought they might at least have spared the temples of the conntry.'

"A sign with this inscription on it hangs on the balcony of the famous Old South Church on Washington street, Boston. When the British soldiers occupied Boston, during the Revolutionary War they wantonly tore out the pews from this, then the leading church in this city, and used the floor for a riding school. Of course the damage done



OLD SOUTH CHURCH, WASHINGTON STREET, BOSTON.

was great, and when the British were driven out of the city and Washington, just having entered, stood on the spot marked by the sign it was like looking down into a stable.

"Interest in the quaint old church is increased just now from the fact that the roof has become so decayed by age that it is no longer safe, and is to be replaced at once. The old roof is of wood, with massive wooden timbers mortised together into a frame. One queer thing about the roof is that it is double, one roof beneath another, with a space of a foot in between. Oddly enough history has preserved no record of why this was built in this way, and architects guess for a reason. Some think one roof leaked and another was built over it. The new roof is to be of iron, but in shape it will be exactly like the old one, so that when done the appearance of the old church will not be changed. The Old South is not used as a place of worship now, but as a historical museum. On patriotic holidays the school children of Boston meet there to sing patriotic songs and hear addresses by famous men and women."

LAWRENCE HADLEY, Boston, Mass.

Here is a pleasant letter from a cousin in far-away Oregon. She or he says:

"As I sat to-day looking over the columns of COMFORT I could heartily endorse the opinion of a friend who remarked to me, 'COMFORT paper is indeed a comfort.' What a rest to look over the letters from various states; and seeing, as we read, those many pleasant places brings a change and rest into our hard-working lives.

"Now perhaps some of your readers would like to know something of this beautiful Rogue River valley. It is one of the most fertile valleys I have ever visited, about forty-five miles long by eighteen wide, and has a railroad running its entire length. There are many pretty towns in it, both on the railroad and throughout the valley. Of these Ashland lies at the southern end of the valley, near the foot of the Siskiyou mountains, and is a city of about four thousand inhabitants. The surrounding hills contain many rich mines, while in the valley all kinds of fruits and vegetables are grown. I am told that there were gathered fifteen hundred and ninety gallons of small fruits last season from the garden of one small rented farm of forty-five acres near here. If any of the eastern cousins are tired of the snow and ice of that bleak region, and would like a nice little home here where to-day, the fifteenth of November, the air is as pleasant as in August, I will be glad to assist them if they will write to me of their wish. I found a nice home in California through the columns of COMFORT, and I shall be glad to be of use to others in finding a home in a mild climate."

C. MARSHALL, Ashland, Jackson Co., Oregon.

Now we will visit Nevada a State which we have hitherto rather neglected in our travels.

"One of the most costly and substantial yet short-lived of bridges was the one built over twenty years ago across one end of the beautiful Washoe lake eight miles south of Virginia City, Nevada.

"When the celebrated Ophir mine was being worked and was at the height of its glory there was not sufficient water power in the immediate vicinity with which to run a mill to work the ore.

"However, some ten miles from the mine lay Washoe lake from whose abundance water could be pumped to carry on the great mining enterprise.

"It was a difficult matter however to obtain a site for a mill as the lake's shores were composed of undulating cliffs. So to erect the mill it was first necessary to build a bridge across one end of the lake to the one level building site on the opposite shore, and work was immediately begun. A large force of men with numerous teams were engaged and soon the driving of piles was going vigorously on. Pile after pile went down through the clear, blue water, planks were secured to them and after many months of ceaseless toil the great bridge spanning a mile of water was completed. The lumber for the mill was at once hauled and the huge building with its massive machinery was in a comparatively short time put in motion. Not only was the bridge used for the constant mill traffic, for it soon became a favorite route for travelers going to and from Virginia City, and it was for years one of the best paying toll bridges in that region where toll roads and bridges, owing to the enormous sums expended in their construction, were the rule instead of the exception. In time, however, with the going down of the Ophir mine the bridge was used less and less, and as all uncared for possessions do, lost its once prosperous appearance."

MRS. MAUD B. RODGERS, Menlo Park, Cal.

Many thanks to Robert Reynolds, of Asheville, N. C., for his pleasant letter. I am sorry not to be able to use the letter sent us by Frank Lyon Holden, but it is not just what we want on this page.

And now, although my lap is still full of letters from cousins in all parts of the country, my space is filled and I must reluctantly say good-by for another month. AUNT MINERVA.

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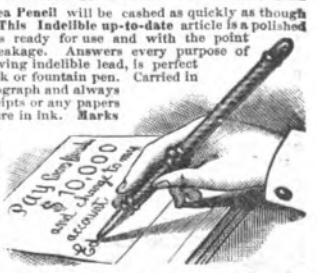


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THE CHILDREN OF THE SUN.

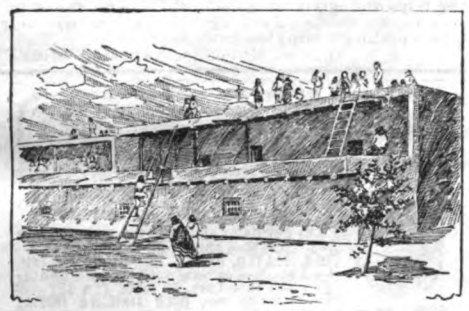
WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



AND are they not well named, these people who dwell in the sky city of Acoma? In the far south-western part of our country are wonders and beauties little dreamed of by those who never leave the beaten tracks. In this category Acoma stands first. It is unique and one may travel the world around for more surpassing beauty. In a fertile valley, rich in crops and green with verdant grass, rises the steep and rugged table rock upon which the city of Acoma is built. The Pueblo Indians who inhabit it are the descendants of those ancient Queres, who built it more than five centuries ago. The mesa, or uneven plain with cliff sides, rises three hundred and fifty-seven feet above the plain, with such steep sides that in many places the higher masses overhang. On all sides the beauty of these cliffs is remarkable. Broken and weathered into strange shapes, sometimes like huge towers and again like bridges spanning mystic depths, these masses of rock loom up in the distance like mysterious beasts from another world. Upon a nearer approach one may see the winding trail leading from the plain to the mesa. In this ladder of rock the feet of generations have worn deep footprints and one thinks, not without admiration, of the thousands of feet which have toiled laboriously over these steps, carrying every particle of the stone, the adobe and the wood which has built the city.

The mesa covers about seventy acres and its top is about seven thousand feet above the sea. It is in two parts, connected by a narrow isthmus so that its shape is something like that of a pair of spectacles. On the southern end of this skyward island is a vast reservoir of cool water, from which the people obtain their drinking water, but there are no dwellings here and the water is carried in great jars on the heads of the women.

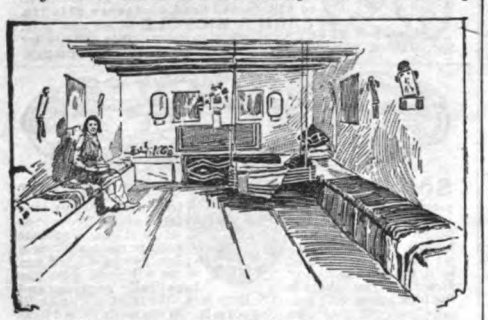
As one looks upon the terraced houses and the church, whose tower rises sixty feet above



TYPE OF HOUSE.

his head, his wonder at the patience of this people increases almost to incredulity. As he looks at the massive timbers of the church and hears that they were all brought from the mountains twenty miles away, he learns a lesson which years of civilization cannot teach him. The houses are built in long rows or in a rectangle. They are usually three stories high with a straight wall on the outside and terraces toward the yard in front. Usually there are no doors on the lower floor but, climbing a ladder, one may descend through a trap door from the roof. Then back a little on this same roof, are the openings to the second story homes and again ascending by quaint little stairs cut in the wall one comes to the third story. There are no interior connections between the houses and both doors and windows are very small. It is a most enticing occupation that of wandering about the housetops, descending the rude stairs and coming suddenly upon some one's front door just under your feet. The interiors are simple in the extreme. The walls are hung with blankets and trophies of the hunt, under which are long benches covered with the mattresses which are laid upon the floor at night for a bed. In one corner is a fireplace, above which are a row of jars containing fresh water from the reservoir.

The people of Acoma are good Catholics while they are in church but everywhere else they



INTERIOR—PUEBLO INDIAN HOUSE.

are pagans. Here and there one comes across the signs of paganism which these Indians have never pretended to abolish. There are the sacred rooms in which are performed rites and ceremonies which may be witnessed only by the great men of the nation. All about are mysterious symbols, sticks, bunches of sacred grass, or a figure, statuesque, standing upon the housetop as the sun sets. The stranger cares not to meddle with these things which belong not to him, and woe to him if his curiosity triumphs! After the body of a departed soul is laid at rest in the churchyard with all the pomp of the Catholic service, one may see the funeral procession pass again to the house of sorrow and carry forth all that was dear to the one who has gone, his blankets, his ornaments, his clothes, and these, broken and torn, are burned, that they may follow their owner to his new home. It is a strange mingling of religion.

The people of Acoma are shepherds and tillers of the soil. The fertile valley below them has been secured to them by a settlement from the United States government. It is some twelve miles long and five wide and contains excellent land for raising corn and vegetables, while the grassy patches are dotted with herds of horses and cattle and sheep. The Pueblo is a gentleman farmer, usually employing the Navajo Indian to do the menial part of his farming, while he employs his time in superintending his property or improving it. Irrigation is the great lesson which these Indians have taught to the white man and no lesson is of more importance in that arid region of deserts.

Physically the Pueblo is superior to most races of our day. He is tall, robust and well built, with a face which shows superiority of intellect. The women are often handsome with neck and shoulders which might make any woman envious. Their dress is a loose, hanging robe of cotton or wool and for festivals their ornaments of silver make a gorgeous setting to a fine figure. These people are extremely fond of fun and of stories. Many of their folk stories are full of pathos and beauty and their songs would rival many of our modern musical attempts.

The Pueblos are a peace-loving people, but it was not always so. Long ago, as their fort-like houses attest, a sentinel was needed on every housetop and the ladders of rock were often red with blood. Their worst enemies were of course the Spaniards but in the course of time they became their best friends and taught the Indians many lessons which have helped them to live more comfortably. Now for hundreds of years peace has reigned and it is likely to for hundreds of years to come. There, upon that wonderful island rising towards the sky, live these simple people, unknown almost, to most of the civilized world. There, amid that wonder of peaks and crags and balanced rocks, of undreamed-of caves and arches, live this race of nature lovers, high up in the blue, clear air of an almost tropic climate. The traveler who sees this people in their home witnesses a scene which rivals in beauty and in picturesqueness any scene of Egypt or the far East.

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STILL A MYSTERY.

Prof. S. A. Weltmer, Through the New Science, Weltmerism, Continues to Startle the World by His Astounding Cures.

LEARN A PROFESSION THAT BRINGS A GOLDEN HARVEST.

The miseries of disease have been transformed into the joys of health by a new science that is as mysterious as it is efficacious. This new science which is known as Weltmerism, as it takes its name from Prof. S. A. Weltmer, of Nevada, Mo., who originated it, is now endorsed by the press and pulpit. This universal endorsement came about from the fact that this wonderful curative power which cures diseases at a distance just as readily as it does those cases that are personally brought to Nevada for treatment has been tested in the past two years on more than 100,000 cases of every disease known to man or woman, some acute, others chronic; some were cases of women who suffered every agony from diseases common to their sex, and others from men who suffered debilitation from early indiscretions; in fact there is no affliction known that was not tested by this wonderful method of Magnetic Healing and it is recorded that in every instance relief was almost instantly brought on and in more than ninety per cent. a permanent cure was effected. So tremendously successful has been Weltmerism in the curing of diseases that all skepticism has been dispelled and scientists throughout the civilized world proclaim that on account of Weltmerism it can now be said for the first time in the history of the world that the curing of disease is brought into the domain of an exact science, and in all diseases no matter what their nature a cure can be effected. We have received from the hands of Prof. J. H. Kelly, the noted scientist, who is a co-laborer of Prof. Weltmer, a few of the many testimonials that are in his possession: T. T. Rodes, of Paris, Mo., the Prosecuting Attorney for Monroe County, suffered for years from Sciatic Rheumatism, tried everything without benefit; was instantly cured through Prof. Weltmer's Absent Treatment. Mr. Rodes has recently won fame as the attorney in the celebrated Jester case. Mrs. C. R. Graham of Boise City, Iowa, was afflicted for nine years with rheumatism; she could not walk without crutches or lift her hands to her head; she paid out $3,000 with doctors before coming to Nevada; she now proclaims herself cured and a happy woman, through Weltmerism. Mrs. D. H. Allen, of Aurora Springs, Mo., was in a hopeless condition, as she suffered from consumption in its worst form; she could not sleep without the aid of morphine; tried everything without relief; fully restored by Prof. Weltmer's Absent Treatment. D. E. Alford, of Rubens, Jewell Co., Kans., suffered for three years with Kidney and Stomach troubles; tried the best medical authorities, but was told that his case was hopeless; took Prof. Weltmer's Absent Treatment and in the three days was cured. Mrs. Jennie L. Lynch, Lakeview, Mo., was for two years afflicted with ulceration of the womb, heart and stomach troubles and general debility; was reduced to a mere skeleton; after taking gallons of obnoxious medicines, without relief, she tried the Weltmer Absent Treatment. In less than thirty days she was entirely relieved and gained fifteen pounds. Mr. G. W. Hightower, Tiff City, Mo., was a total wreck; suffered many years with stomach, liver and kindred troubles; tried everything without relief; fully restored by Prof. Weltmer's Absent Method. Mrs. M. M. Walker, Poca, W. Va., suffered with eczema, indigestion and other troubles; dozens of doctors failed to give any relief; she was permanently restored by Prof. Weltmer's Absent Method in two months. By writing Prof. S. A. Weltmer, Nevada, Mo., you will receive free of charge, The Magnetic Journal, a 40-page illustrated magazine, and a long list of the most remarkable cures ever made.



PROF. WELTMER.

Teaches His Method to Others.

The method of Magnetic Healing (Weltmerism), while a mysterious force, is at the same time a natural one, it is a power lying dormant in every human being brought into the world, and only needs to be brought to the surface. Prof. S. A. Weltmer in an interview stated, that any one who wished could learn this grand profession and anyone who learns it can practice it. This has been abundantly proven by the many students of the American School of Magnetic Healing, of which Prof. S. A. Weltmer is President and Prof. J. H. Kelly Secy, for students of this School are now practicing, with grand success, the healing art through Weltmerism. It can be said without hesitancy that this is the best paying profession of the age, for the students who are now practicing report that they are earning from $20 to $50 per day; this is not strange when one considers that disease is the greatest enemy of the human race. It is a foe to success, happiness and contentment, and this wonderful power known as Weltmerism dispels disease and vanquishes this foe without the aid of either medicine or the surgeon's knife; and then again, all other professions are overcrowded, while it is impossible to overcrowd a profession that cures disease, especially when statistics tell us that over eighty per cent. of the human race are suffering from diseases of every nature. Prof. S. A. Weltmer is very anxious to have others take up his noble profession and assist him in his grand work, for his method of healing has now become so famous that he must call upon others to assist him; he will, therefore, teach the method of Magnetic Healing, known as Weltmerism, to any man or woman who will write him. He will teach them by mail or personal instructions. He makes the statement that a student becomes as efficient in the curing power, as is himself in ten days' time. Any one who wishes to take advantage of this grand offer and become possessed of not only the grandest, but at the same time the best paying profession of the age, can do so by addressing Prof. J. H. Kelly, Sec'y. Nevada, Mo. who will send you full instructions free of charge.

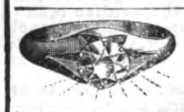


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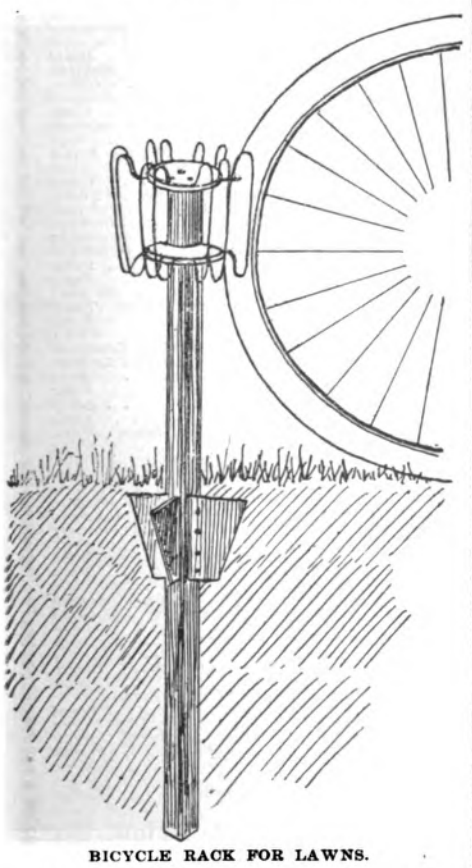
IT is now the "between season"—"'twixt hay and grass" so to speak in the bicycling world. It is not exactly easy to foretell what will be most popular the coming season.

Perhaps the most remarkable of the season's features is the increase in the number of juvenile wheels in use. Only a few years ago a child of six or seven on a bicycle was a novelty. To-day there are hundreds of them in the cities. The little riders are seen mostly in the streets where they live, coursing up and down on the asphalt, doing "stunts" or playing games awheel. The parks also attract them in large numbers. Dealers say that the demand for juvenile wheels the past year is almost double that of 1898. The prominent makers have turned out a fine wheel for the youngsters. The machines are strong and durable. They have to be made strong, for curbstones and piles of debris have no terrors for the average youngster awheel.

Money in large amounts is being expended for an ideal motor, which can be applied to automobiles and launches and the bicycle, tandem and tricycle. The traveling public and the sporting world at large, are much interested in the question, and the mechanical experts and inventors are kept busy. The advocates of electricity for automobiles and launches say that they have made interesting experiments the past year, while others who prefer naphtha and kerosene make claims which they profess to be able to demonstrate when occasion requires.

Certain experiments have been made with gasolene and kerosene about which some astonishing announcements are made. It is the intention of the persons interested to make engines for automobiles, launches, bicycles and tricycles which will use either gasolene or kerosene, and the assertion is made that the engines will be small, yet do the work of engines double or triple their size. A man prominent in the cycling world has been experimenting with one of the kerosene engines in a small launch, and he says that the work done has been entirely satisfactory. He says that one of the engines placed in a carriage will not only take up little space, but when charged with kerosene will push two hundred miles under ordinary conditions, without having to be recharged. The engine in question is about thirty inches long, eight by eight inches, and has a flywheel from sixteen to eighteen inches in diameter. The machine is of about nine horse-power.

Experiments have been made with the idea of perfecting an engine not much larger than a cigar box to be attached to a bicycle or tricycle. It is the intention to make the little machine compact, strong and at the same time powerful. For the bicycle it will weigh only a few pounds, and it is intended to be used when the rider encounters a steep hill or when the wheelman is returning from a long journey and is pretty well fagged out. The little machine will have from one-half to one horse-



BICYCLE RACK FOR LAWNS.

power and kerosene will be the motor force. It is said that the little engine, in addition, will be noiseless. Its power will be equal to four or five men. The engines to be used in the automobiles and launches will be larger and more powerful.

It used to be said that American bicycle riders knew little of hill climbing except as a sought-for pastime. The statement may have been true once, but it no longer holds good. The homes and haunts of wheelmen are not in these days closely limited to city and suburban districts. Thousands of riders are now to be found in the rugged, semi-mountainous regions of New England, among the foothills of the Rocky, Blue Ridge and Alleghany Mountains, and, indeed, in all parts of this country, without special regard to topographical features.

No doubt the average dweller of the plains would find climbing of the everlasting hills an extreme hardship at first, and there is also no doubt that the wheelman whose riding is necessarily mostly composed of alternate climbing and coasting would find unchanging levels monotonous and perhaps dreary. It is a point to be noted that the rough riding of the hill regions does not appear to be harder on one's physique than continuous work on the level. An all day's ride without grades calls for unremitting if moderate exertion, while among the hills, although much harder pedalling is called for, there are also long coasts which are not only restful, but exhilarating; and if occasional walking is necessary it is not at all bad from the doctor's point of view.

An artistic bicycle rack is a thing long desired by suburban and country residents. A new one just meets the requirements. The post is light yet stout, the holders and springs are of extra length and the anchors have a firm purchase against the soil in which they are imbedded. There is no need of digging up or disturbing the sand. It is noticeable that most bicycle improvements are now artistic. Bicycle adjustable handle bars are practically universal. Never before have so many or such good bars been submitted to riders. With neat designs and having practical utility behind them very little is to be desired. A number of bicycle makers use bars of their own design, while the increase in the number of handle bar makers who supply the trade is large.

The notion that bicycling is losing favor among the masses is all nonsense. The record of sales for 1899 is an impressive negative to any such inference. It is true, however, that the grown up learners are less conspicuous than formerly. Perhaps the simple, obvious reason is analagous to the cause of the inferiority of black sheep to white sheep as producers of wool—there are not so many of them. Most of the adults know how to ride, and it has come to pass that the ranks of wheelmen are recruited mainly from the boys and girls of today.

The costliest bicycle in the world was finished at a gun factory in Vienna. It cost 500,000 gulden, which is a little more than $275,000. The owner is a rich South African diamond king and mine owner, who presented the machine to his wife on her birthday. The frame alone cost 1800 gulden, and at the last Vienna exposition it was admired by thousands. This South African nabob was so struck with the exquisite beauty of the wheel that he bought it and had it inlaid with precious stones and diamonds on every possible part.

The most important parts of a machine, from a constant rider's point of view, are the bearings of the front and driving wheels and an easy running chain. Should either become clogged with dirt or grease, the whole ease of running is lost at once, and riding instead of becoming an enjoyment, degenerates into hard work—work, too, by which no useful purpose is served. When the bearings and chains are clean, a few drops of oil, not a quantity, are all that is required every few days, once a week being generally frequent enough, unless the owner is a rider who covers his thirty or forty miles a day.

It is the legal duty of every user of the highway to exercise reasonable care in every act the consequence of which may involve the safety of the persons or the property of others. Failure to perform this duty constitutes negligence.

It is said that Thomas Willson, a Canadian electrician, was in 1892 the first man to make carbide by a method applicable commercially.

A curious case of loss of memory has been recorded. A wheelman was found lying on the ground, bleeding from a wound in his head, but could not recollect in the least how it happened.

PAUL JONES' FLAG.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



THE first flag of our country, the flag carried by John Paul Jones on his ship the Bon Homme Richard, is still carefully preserved in a glass case in the National Museum in Washington, D. C., and is an object of pride as well as curiosity to the crowds which daily throng the halls of the Museum.

This flag was made in Philadelphia in 177— by the Misses Mary and Sarah Austin, under the direct supervision of George Washington and Captain John Brown. It is of English bunting, two and one half yards long by one yard in width, is sewed with flax thread, and contains twelve stars arranged in four horizontal lines of three stars each, on a field of blue. There are thirteen stripes, alternately red and white. When the flag was completed it was presented to Paul Jones, who placed it on a small vessel called the Delaware, and sailed up and down the Schuylkill river to display the flag in this way to the thousands of Philadelphians who had gathered on the banks of the river to see it, and who cheered wildly and enthusiastically as it passed them fluttering from the masthead.

When Paul Jones started on his privateering trip in the Bon Homme Richard, he carried this flag floating from the masthead of his ship. During his famous fight with the British war vessel, Serapis, in the British Channel off Flambra Head, the flag was shot away and carried overboard, but Lieut. Stafford jumped into the sea, recovered it, and succeeded in regaining the ship with it. Not content with this act of daring he insisted upon climbing the rigging with it in his hand and again nailing it to the masthead, where it flaunted defiance to the enemy and waved joyfully when, at the close of the terrible engagement, the commander of the Serapis tendered his surrender and his sword to John Paul Jones.

A NEW discovery in the use of liquid air is as a medicine and anesthetic. It is claimed that it is a specific in the treatment of shingles, facial neuralgia, sciatica, and kindred diseases, and is also very helpful in the case of boils, abscesses, carbuncles, erysipelas, etc. As an anesthetic it is invaluable, as it produces local freezing of the tissues and so prevents flow of blood in surgical operations and thus gives clean work.

AND now the authorities are down on the use of explosives for Fourth of July, and it looks as if the time were coming in the near future when that great day will prove as mild and harmless, as still and noiseless as any other of the three hundred and sixty-five that go to make up the year. Cannon crackers are already tabooed in the large cities, and even the common cracker has met a like fate in some of them. And now the terrible mortality among the boys of New York from lockjaw immediately after the "Fourth", has sealed the fate of the toy pistol.

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Our Bargain book of Holiday presents and a skein of embroidery silk will be sent you, together with a lot of new and pretty silk pieces that will make over eighty square inches of crazy quilt or sofa pillow. Send six cents for a three months' subscription and we will send above, together with diagram showing latest fancy stitches. Also tells how to get a larger lot of silk and satin pieces free. Address, FAMILY HERALD, Augusta, Maine.

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It looks as though the twentieth century would be woman's century in more ways than one. The nineteenth century saw such mighty advances along the lines of the rights of woman that it would be no great innovation did women actually use the mythical privilege of Leap Year. The twentieth century will contain twenty-four Leap Years. The first occurs in 1904 and then regularly every four years. Twenty-four reminders that she may take advantage of tradition may convince the most conservative that a change is desirable in the old saying, "Man proposes."

Hamlet is not alone in his discovery that his occupation was gone. New inventions are constantly forcing people into other occupations as well as adding new ones to the list. It is the same with amusements. What has become of the roller skate experts of a decade ago? We can all recall their astonishing exhibitions of skill but they have skated into the sea of oblivion that swallows so many amusements. The latest victims are the bicycle instructors. Two years ago there were hundreds of them in the country. They received good prices for instuction and reaped a bountiful harvest. Now it seems that every one who wished to learn to ride has done so and the bicycle instructors have sought other occupation. The rage for golf has given employment to hundreds of half-grown youngsters who trudge behind the players with the bag of clubs. They have even grown so familiar with the honors and duties of their situation as to go "on strike" recently at a fashionable club with demands for a higher price per hour. It is rather an amusing study of the rise and decrease of amusements.

There is one saint at whose shrine both saints and sinners bow—Saint Valentine. His devotees belong to no age and no country for love is a sentiment found wherever human nature manifests itself and Saint Valentine is its patron saint. There are many quaint and curious customs associated with the day but they are but forms of devotion to the little blind god in whose services Saint Valentine gained his rank. The careless modern pays his tribute no less than did the old time gallant. Our expressions of sentiment are probably more expensive than those of an earlier day, for love is a luxury in this age. Violets in silver bowls, rare orchids in ivory holders or jewel studded hearts express modern sentiment as verses encircled with elaborate paper cut work expressed that of a bygone age. The fact remains that in spite of the cynics, in spite of the materialists, Saint Valentine is worshipped to-day no less sincerely than he was in the past, for he represents a sentiment older than even human nature—the sentiment of love.

It is safe to say that the person who has followed the exciting events of the past year has added largely to his knowledge of geography. We have been interested in events in Samoa, the Hawaiian Islands, Cuba, Porto Rico, and the Philippines. Many of these names did not mean even a place on a map at first, but from the atlas we have proceeded to books of travel, history and any other means that can make these places real to us. It is just as true that the Boer war has increased interest in South Africa. The whole civilized world has been surprised at the English rebuffs and correspondingly interested in literature that will throw light on the South African problem. Among the books most in demand at the libraries is to be found the following comprehensive list. The most authoritative books are Bryce's "Impressions of South Africa," Keltie's "Partition of South Africa," Theal's extensive "History of South Africa," Schreiner's "South African Question," and Stanley's "Through South Africa." Thompson's "Rhodesia" and Boon's "History of the Orange State" are good special books. "Oom Paul's People" by Hillegas, and Slatham's "Paul Krueger" are devoted especially to the Boers and their leader. Students of diplomacy have been watching Asia for the past ten years with the feeling that it was upon that continent that England would be called upon to make her struggle for supremacy. Now it seems that the Dark Continent is the one that must throw light upon England's future place as a great power.

The majority of people allowed their sympathies rather than their intellect to determine their partizanship in the Boer war. Without regard to the history of the relations of the Boer Republic with England or of the moral principles involved on either side they felt sympathy with what they considered the weaker nation. The British Empire against one small Dutch state was the feature of the case that appealed to a large majority of people. An empire covering one-fourth of the entire land surface of the globe against a nation small in territory, in wealth, in population. To say that the British reverses surprised the world is but a mild statement of a startling fact. The statement has been made that only the rebuffs of England at the time she lost her American colonies can compare with the present situation. The comparison is not fair, as England during our Revolution was involved in a great continental war and had arrayed against her France, Spain, and Holland with a threatening coalition of the Northern powers, whereas at present she has only the Boer Republic to conquer. There are other causes. First of all, England's great fighting strength is in her navy, not her army. She owns one-half of all the shipping of the world but her standing army is one of the smallest. The English Channel has separated England from the continent and prevented the necessity of great standing armies. England's army has not in recent years been called to oppose any but half civilized people armed with inferior weapons. The Boers have mustered 60,000 men, more than double the number it was estimated they could place in the field. They have all the advantage of positons. A celebrated general once said "position is nine parts of the battle." The English do not possess accurate maps of the country and have placed but 80,000 men in the field. The odds so far are vastly in favor of the Boers and they have taken all advantage of the situation. The ultimate outcome is inevitable unless a general European war is precipitated—the English must win but it is hardly such a case of power against weakness as was at first supposed.

February brings its reminder of two great typical Americans—Washington and Lincoln. February the twelfth and February the twenty-second are days whose observance as holidays typifies the great respect, veneration and love of all patriotic Americans for the memories of the men who founded and preserved our union. In all the circumstance of their outward life they were as far apart as the poles. Washington the patrician, the autocrat, and Lincoln the plain man from the ranks of the plain people. The one, courtly, dignified, reserved; the other uncouth, homely and unpretentious. Yet their names are linked in history and their deeds are written together. Many people find a pleasing mental diversion in discussing the question of what Lincoln or Washington would say of the present policy of our Government—and always with the implication that they would disapprove of our present measures in the Philippines. To make such a question a means of asserting such a conclusion is to show an entire ignorance of the public and private expressions of both Washington and Lincoln. Neither men showed inclination to precipitate strife but neither showed any hesitation as to the outcome. Loyalty to the government was the key note of both great lives. There were two sides to the moral questions that led to the Revolution and to the Civil War. The argument was not all just on the side of the American colonies or on the side of the North. But when actual war came their argument ceased and the question was simply one of loyal devotion to the nation. Washington believed the Declaration of Independence to be ill advised; Lincoln was not an abolitionist until it was forced upon him as a war measure. Two of the greatest measures of these wars were not in the minds of the great leaders at the commencement of the struggle. The one dominant idea that was in their minds was the one of loyal devotion to their country. For this the nation honors their natal days. The question "What would Washington or Lincoln do at this stage of our history?" is one that can be plainly answered by all students of the lives of these great Americans. They would be loyal to the government, first, last and all the time.

Cornell University has a new course known as a "Course in Forestry." It is the only college in the United States that is giving scientific attention to a matter that so deeply concerns the welfare of the people. Our forests are rapidly disappearing and the effect of this wholesale destruction of trees can not fail to be harmful in more ways than one. Aside from the immediate commercial effect of the lessening of timber production is the no less important result of the change in climatic conditions produced by a small forest area. Cornell has thirty thousand acres in the Adirondack Mountains secured as a forest preserve. Over one million small trees of different varieties have been planted on this land. The study of their growth will give students a practical knowledge of the trees best fitted to varied conditions of soil exposure, moisture and the like. There is little general knowledge on this subject. It has been truly said that he who plants a tree plants a hope. Many more trees would be planted if people understood the variety of tree best suited to certain soils and to certain conditions. One of the most pleasing features of European countries is the excellent system of roads bordered by miles and miles of trees. This feature is sometimes seen here and the tree shaded road makes driving a delight. With a proper stimulation of interest in tree planting and tree culture we might easily rival the great roadways of Europe as far as beauty is concerned. One of the most hopeful signs in municipal and village affairs is the appointment of tree committees. Their business is to collect information on the subject of tree planting and to recommend the planting of trees in certain places. The evergreens and the deciduous trees have individual elements of beauty and fitness. Canada has the leaf of the rock maple as her emblem, but the northern section of the United States could claim this beautiful tree with justice. In its October glory it appeals for all trees by showing the radiant beauty of one. The study in schools of tree growth and structure under the name of Nature Study cannot fail to awaken an intelligent interest in these monarchs of the forest. Any and all means that awaken an interest in trees from the standpoint of beauty should be encouraged and commended. The people have too long looked at trees through eyes trained to see "lumber" and that only.

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LIST OF THE PIECES OFFERED AT THIS TIME.

No.	PIANO OR ORGAN.	
165	American Liberty March	Cook
101	Ancients Abroad. March—Two Step	Cook
247	Artist's Life Waltzes	Strauss
181	Auld Lang Syne. Variations	Durkee
187	Austrian Song. Op. 69, 1	Pacher
215	Battle of Waterloo. Descriptive	Anderson
179	Beauties of Paradise Waltz. 4 hands	Streabbog
227	Beautiful Blue Danube Waltzes	Strauss
65	Bells of Corneville. Potpourri	Elson
213	Black Hawk Waltzes	Walsh
221	Bluebird Echo Polka	Morrison
199	Boston Commandery March	Carter
109	Bridal March from Lohengrin	Wagner
229	Bryan and Sewall March	Noles
133	Cadences and Scales in all Keys	Czerny
1	Catherine Waltzes	Stroh
237	Cherokee Roses Waltz. 4 hands.	Behr
145	Clayton (Adjutant) March—Two Step	Missud
217	Cleveland's March	Noles
81	Coming from the Races Galop	Wheeler
211	Corn Flower Waltzes	Coote, Jr
41	Crack Four March	Ashton
71	Crystal Dew Waltz	Durkee
235	Day Dawn Polka	Cook
133	Dewey's Grand Triumphal March	Marcel
117	Echoing Trumpets March	Noles
121	Electric Light Galop	Durkee
91	Estella, Air de Ballet. Very fine.	Robinson
107	Ethel Polka	Simons
155	Evergreen Waltz	Stoddard
231	Faust. Selections	Burbeck
77	Fifth Nocturne	Leyback
233	Flirting in the Starlight. Waltz	Lasaide
239	Flower Song. Op. 39.	Lange
97	Fresh Life	Spindler
177	Frolic of the Frogs.	Watson
49	Full of Ginger. March Galop.	Nuttino
183	Golden Rain. Nocturne	Cloy
147	Grand Commandery March—Two Step	Missud
53	Greeting of Spring, op. 21	Schultze
185	Her Bright Smile Haunts Me Still	Richards
173	Hobson of the Merrimac Waltzes	Jewell
139	Home, Sweet Home. Transcription	Slack
17	Impassioned Dream Waltzes	Rosas
153	Jenny Lind polka. Four hands	Muller
157	Last Hope. Meditation	Gottschalk
195	Leap Year Schottische	Kahn
159	Lee's (Gen'l) "On to Cuba" galop	Durkee
249	Lohengrin. Selections	Durkee
141	London March—Two Step	Missua
99	Maiden's Prayer, The	Badarzewske
45	March Winds Galop	Mansfield
240	Martha Selections	Johnson
207	May Breezes. Four hands	Krug
225	McKinley and Hobart March	Turner
55	Memorial Day March	Hewitt
131	Monastery Bells. Nocturne	Wely
89	Morning Dew, op. 18	Smith
61	Morning Star Waltz	Zahn
201	Music Box, The. Caprice	Liebich
137	My Love Polka	Zichrer
125	My Old Kentucky Home Variations	Cook
87	National Anthems of Eight Great Nations	
175	National Songs of America	Blake
135	Nightingale's Trill, op. 8	Kullak
123	Old Folks at Home. Transcription	Blake
171	Old Oaken Bucket, The. Variations	Durkee
219	On the Wave Waltz	Dinsmore
197	Oregon, Queen of the Sea. Two-step	Robinson
245	Orvetta Waltz	Spencer
9	Our Little Agnes. Waltz	Gregoire
191	Over the Waves Waltz	Rosas
79	Please Do Waltz	Durkee
193	Poet and Peasant Overture (Suppe)	Brunner
167	Red, White and Blue Forever. March	Blake
143	Richmond March—two-step	Missud
245	Rustic Waltz	Schumann
127	Rustling Leaves. Idylle	Lange
39	Ruth, Esther and Marion Schottische.	Cohen
149	Salem Witches March—Two-Step	Missud
189	Schubert's Serenade. Transcription	Liszt
161	Silvery Waves. Variations	Wyman
169	Smith's (General) March	Martin
31	Song of the Voyager	Paderewski
22	Souvenir March Song of 1895 K. T. Parade	Dow
95	Spirit Lake Waltz	Simons
151	Storm, The. Imitation of Nature	Weber
73	Storm Mazurka	Keefer
109	Sultan's Band March.	Brown
209	Sweet Long Ago. Transcription	Blake
115	Tornado Galop	Arbuckle
103	Trifet's Grand March, op. 182	Wedel
223	Twilight Echoes. Song without words	Jewell
113	Under the Double Eagle March	Wagner
129	Venetian Waltz	Ludovic
205	Village Parade Quickstep	Allen
7	Visions of Light. Waltz	Cook
203	Warblings at Eve	Richards
93	Waves of the Ocean March	Blake
59	Wedding March	Mendelssohn
85	Winsome Grace. A perfect gem.	Howe
119	Woodland Whispers Waltzes	Stanley
105	Zephyr Waltz	Bragg

No.	VOICE AND PIANO OR ORGAN.	
236	Across the Bridge	Le Brunn
2	Annie's Love. Duet for Sop. and Ten.	Winter
27	Ave Maria, From Cavalleria Rusticana	Mascagni
140	Beacon Light of Home	Estabrooke
134	Beautiful Moonlight. Duet	Glover
238	Bells of Seville	H. Jude
162	Ben Bolt, of "Trilby" fame	Kneass
226	Blue Eyes	Elson
246	Boyhood Days, Chorus	Fritz
200	Bridge, The. Words by Longfellow	Carew
192	Can You, Sweetheart, Keep a Secret?	Estabrooke
122	Changeless	Trotere
214	Childhood's Happy Hours	Dinsmore
138	Christmas Carol	Turner
190	Come When the Soft Twilight Falls	Schumann
168	Coon's Breach of Promise. Cake walk	Blake
92	Cow Bells, The. Boyhood's Recollection	Grimm
176	Darling Nellie Gray	Hanby
70	Dear Heart, We're Growing Old	Estabrooke
128	Don't drink, my Boy, tonight. Temp.	Hoover
50	Easter Eve. Sacred	Gounod
220	Ever Sweet is Thy Memory	Hosfeld
19	'E Dunno Where 'E Are. Comic	Eplett
72	Ellaline. Waltz song	Betts
180	Far Away	Bliss
182	Father is Drinking Again. Temperance	
126	Far from the Hearthstone	Messer
152	Flag of Our Country. Patriotic	Mathiot
156	Flag, The. Quartette	Fox
144	Flirting in the Starlight	Delano
8	Flossie. Waltz Song	Cohen
138	For a Dream's Sake	Coven
36	For the Colors. Patriotic	Wilson
66	For You We are Praying at Home	Estabrooke
166	From our Home the Loved are Going	Percy
202	Give a Kiss to Me	Percy
178	God Bless My Kind Old Mother	Jewell
204	Golden Moon	Ivan
150	Gypsy Countess. Duet	Glover
198	Heart of My Heart	Robinson
184	I Can't Forget the Happy Past.	Skelly
74	In Sweet September	Temple
248	In Shadowland	Pinsuti
188	In the Starlight. Duet	Glover
28	Juanita. Ballad	May
242	Kathleen Mavourneen	Crouch
196	Killarney	Balfe
132	Kiss me, but don't say goodbye	Rutledge
130	Kiss that bound my Heart to thine	Keil
164	Larboard Watch. Duet	Williams
146	Listen to the Mocking Bird	Hawthorne
48	Little Boy Blue. Solo or Duet	Estabrooke
154	Little Voices at the Door	Danks
98	Lost Chord, The	Sullivan
106	Lottie Bell	Gilbert
40	Love Ever Faithful	Bucalossi
68	Lovely Little Nellie Dwyer	Casey
25	Lurline, Do you think of me now?	Estabrooke
234	Margaretta	Balfe
112	Massa's Sleeping in de Churchyard	Keefer
230	Memories of my Mother. Chorus	Allen
30	Mission of a Rose, The. Song	Coven
52	Mother's Cry, A. (Salvation Army)	Adriance
172	Mother's Welcome at the Door	Estabrooke
222	Musical Dialogue. Duet	Helmund
232	Must the Sweet Tie that binds	Estabrooke
76	My Home by the Old Mill	O'Halloran
110	My Little Lost Irene	Danks
170	My Old Kentucky Home	Foster
216	Oh, Sing Again that Gentle Strain.	Dinsmore
228	Old Folks at Home (Swanee Ribber)	Foster
60	Old Glory. National	Woods
102	Old Sexton, The	Russell
104	On the Banks of the Beautiful River	Estabrooke
90	On the Beach. Most beautiful ballad	Robinson
160	Outcast, An. Character Song	Fritz
174	Parted from our Dear Ones	Keller
100	Picture of My Mother, The	Skelly
148	Poor Girl didn't know. Comic.	Cooke
56	Precious Treasure. Song and Dance	Weiler
136	Request. Sacred	Grainger
208	Rocked in the Cradle of the Deep	Knight
142	Rosemonde	Chaminade
80	See Those Living Pictures	Guth
224	Shall I Ever See Mother's Face Again?	Adriance
194	She Sleeps among the Daisies	Dinsmore
124	Softly shine the Stars of Evening	Dinsmore
210	Son's Return, The	Fritz
120	Storm at Sea. Descriptive	Hullah
10	Sweetest Song, The	Denza
32	Sweet Long Ago, The	Estabrooke
46	That Word was Hope. Waltz song	Nutting
118	There's a Rainbow in the Clouds	Danks
206	There's Sure to be a Way	Delano
158	Thinking of Home and Mother	Cohen
116	'Tis True, Dear Heart, We're Fading	Estabrooke
108	Tread softly the Angels are calling	Turner
38	True to the Last	Adams
64	Vicar of Bray, The. Old English Song	
62	Your Mother's Love for You	Koppt
84	What are the Wild Waves Saying? Duet	Glover
58	When the Roses are Blooming Again	Skelly
86	When Winter Days Have Gone	Trayne
186	Whistling Wife, The. Comic	Randall
212	Why am I ever Watching	de Lasaide
218	Why do Summer Roses Fade	Barker

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Address "COMFORT Music Room," Augusta, Maine.

ROSALIE, MY ROSALIE.

BALLAD WITH WALTZ REFRAIN.

WORDS BY FRANK HUMPHREYS. MUSIC BY ARTHUR M. COHEN.



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A NEW WALTZ SONG.

The above beautiful waltz refrain song, My Rosalie, is one of those prettily sentimental songs with the waltz time which proved so very popular just before the advent of the "coon" and "rag-time" music which have held sway for some months past. The present one was submitted to the Musical Editor of COMFORT and if it shall prove half as pleasing to others as it did to him it will indeed be a most popular piece. We are certain that it will be appreciated both by the musical and by ordinary listeners, for besides the beauty and excellence of the music itself, the sentiment of the poetry is admirable and such as will meet the popular taste. In the selection of music and songs for publication in COMFORT, it is always the intention of the paper to have only the best and what will appeal to the taste of the greater number. While no one piece will satisfy every hearer, we know that the great majority in every case has been amply satisfied with the beauty of our musical numbers.

Nothing is more discouraging at a party or any kind of company than to have some singer or player attempt to interest those present by bringing out a lot of time-worn pieces that bore every hearer. There is no excuse for this for every singer and player by taking advantage of COMFORT'S wonderful music offer found on another page, can at a trifling cost obtain the very latest and best pieces both in vocal and instrumental music. It is positively the same kind of music as is charged for by storemen at any rate from 35 to 75 cents and even more.

THE WRITER OF A SONG.

Only a short time ago the papers announced the death of Rev. Samuel F. Smith D. D., who is known to fame as the author of one of our National hymns, America. Dr. Smith however should be known as more than the author of that one hymn as he had a very eventful and busy life. He was a man of great education and had mastered several languages and was so skilled that he translated several books at different times. Fond of writing he contributed to a prolific degree to missionary and religious papers, while engaged in the heavier work of writing and editing books on similar subjects. During over forty years he was pastor in New England churches and constantly preached and traveled as a minister of the gospel.

At college he was a member of the famous class in Harvard in which graduated Holmes, Freeman Clarke and many other noted men. Here and for his lifetime he was intimate with Longfellow, Emerson and Whittier.

He held his strength remarkably to the end and was as vigorous both in body and mind as could have possibly been expected at a very advanced age. When the Endeavor Convention was in Boston he had reached the age of eighty-seven and yet was able to read the original poem to the multitude assembled with such power that every syllable was heard easily in the most remote sections.

His home was in Newton Center and from the windows of his old-fashioned New England house were the templed hills of which he wrote, while below can be seen the rocks and rills and other touches of nature that abound in the song.

Although some critical people affect to deride both the merit and art of "America," and though even its friends admit defects, the fact remains that outside this one song, with the possible exception of "The Star Spangled Banner," we have no National song, and certainly nothing has been written which shows such sense of noble patriotism ar | so thrills the soul of the listener as this beautiful poem

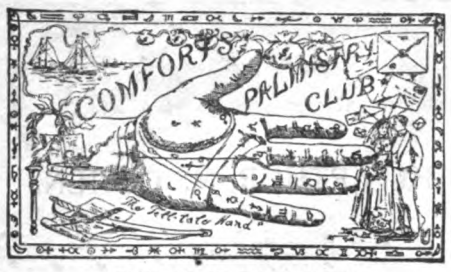
"To him 'twas given to touch the string
That echoed in a nation's heart."

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The person who looks about and sees opportunities for economy and neglects them soon reaches a place where he has nothing to economize. To-day COMFORT offers every music lover a bargain in sheet music for a nominal cost, practically the cost of packing and mailing. Those who have bought high-cost music at stores look on this either as impossible or of trying to get rid of old shop-worn pieces that cannot be sold. On the contrary this is new fresh sheet music right off the press, but made by modern machinery. We guarantee it full-size, best quality sheet music. Read the offer and send for some and have your friends do the same. If not as guaranteed and perfectly satisfactory we will refund every copper. But if you see it once you will have learned where to find the best music at an almost give away price. Read the offer and do as it suggests.

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No notice will be taken of impressions and requests for readings unless the sender has fully complied with the above conditions.

To take impressions, first hold two large pieces of blank paper over a candle or similar flame, until they are heavily coated with the smoke. Then lay these pieces down, smoke side uppermost on a pad of cotton. Now place the two hands, palms downward, one on each sheet of paper, pressing firmly and steadily down, but taking care not to move the hand. Keep them so for one minute and lift carefully, so as not to disturb the impression. Have ready some fixatif, which can be bought at a drug store or an art store or made with gum arabic and water in an atomizer. Spray this over the impressions before they are moved and allow them to dry. Then they are ready to send.

Smoked paper impressions are the best. But if it is desired to send a plaster cast, take plaster of Paris and dissolve in water to the consistency of thick cream. Pour this into a large shallow dish and when it is hardening place the hand, well-greased, palm downward, in the plaster, pressing downward. Several minutes will be required to get this impression and great care must be taken in removing the hand, not to break the plaster. Casts are exceedingly difficult to send without breaking and should be very carefully packed in a box with the name of the sender written on it. Putty is sometimes successfully used in place of plaster. A good photograph if sufficiently well taken to bring out all the lines, can also be read, although in all cases the smoked paper is the best, if properly treated with fixatif.

Bear in Mind that all the above conditions must be observed.

Also, that letters not complying with them will go into the waste-basket. Readings cannot appear for several months after impressions are sent.

OWING to the fact that some parties do not fulfill all the conditions necessary to insure a prompt reading and a correct one, it is impossible for me to keep things straight at this end of the line. As stated in the September number I read the hand of "Despondent" for a certain person. Now she claims that it was not right. If she sent further impressions as she says marked "Anxiety" I cannot find them. Will she please send me new impressions and be careful that they are good ones, and mark on them the nom de plume "Anxiety" and her own full address at the same time, cutting out and attaching this paragraph? I will then give her as good a reading as I can and trust that it will be satisfactory, but she must comply with all these conditions.

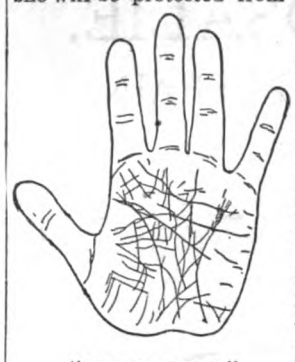
"M. E. J." writes the second time asking when her hands will appear in COMFORT. They were read in the last number, January 1900. To illustrate the length of time that it takes to read the hands after impressions are once sent, I will state that the impressions read this month were all received in November, which is the earliest possible time in which they can be done. Frequently it is six months before I get to them. I tell you this in order that you may not get impatient.

The first of these fails to send any nom de plume with her impression. I will therefore take the initials of her name, which are "A. T." All the impressions she sends are from her right hand. There should have been one, at least, from the left in order that I might have it for comparison. It is a good hand, showing many fine influences rising from her life line and indicating wealth and honor in her old age. Her health will always be somewhat delicate and I do not think she will live much beyond the age of fifty. She will have some strange experiences and many perplexities in life, but somehow everything will be for the best and she will rise superior to all her troubles. She is a person of wonderful tact and uncommon ability in many ways. She makes many friends, has a very high ideal in life and will live up to it, although she will be very much admired by the opposite sex and have many love affairs. She will be married twice and I think three times and she will have many journeys. She will have the courage of her convictions in all that she does and will dare to go ahead with any scheme which she believes to be for her own good. I can see wealth and fame in her hand, although from the age of forty onward she will have some complications of an unpleasant nature. Her second marriage will be to a man of fine reputation. Her hand is peculiar in some respects and shows that she will receive the opposition of both friends and enemies, especially between the age of twenty and thirty, but she has a wonderful amount of courage and will carry everything through to a successful ending.



"A. T."

"March Hare" is to be greatly admired for the excellent impressions which she sends. I wish all my readers would take as much pains to have them plain and distinct. These impressions show a person of much ability, but rather inclined to underrate herself, i. e., she does not dare to live up thoroughly to what she knows would be best for her. She is a person of a great deal of natural ability, of artistic temperament, fond of reading, music and fine pictures. She has a great deal of tact in managing other people and considerable will power, but at the same time she is easily influenced by those for whose judgment she has respect. There is a distinct star marked on the head line of the left hand which appears with less distinctness on the right. This would indicate a bad wound on the head if it were the other way and appeared stronger in the right than it does in the left, but as it is I judge that she will be protected from that danger. She will have many things to contend with during life, not the least of which will be opposition from her friends, which will cause her more or less worry. She is ambitious, with lofty aims and these will be realized in large measure. Her life line is forked at the lower end which indicates that there will be some weakening of her forces after the age of forty-five, and she will need to guard her strength at that time. There are several lines ascending from her life line all of which point to good luck at the age indicated. She will not be likely to have many children. She will have two marriages, one at the age of twenty-five or thereabouts and the other after she is forty-five. She will have several journeys with pleasant endings and one of these, coming at the close of her life, will take her into foreign lands. On the whole her left hand is much poorer than her right and I think she will in main, have excellent luck and will make a wealthy marriage. She has occult faculties which if developed, will make her a good palmist or even clairvoyant reader.



"MARCH HARE."

"Treble" sends his hands without fixatif and they are not very badly rubbed, although they are somewhat. As I have often repeated in this column, it is impossible to send them through the mails without the use of fixatif so but what they will rub, as even the motion of shaking them about rubs off the smoke. His is an excellent hand showing an upright, straightforward character, which can be depended upon at all times. He will make a splendid business man on this account and also because he has sufficient faith in himself and perseverance to carry out whatever seems best. He has a strong constitution and will be well up to a very old age with the exception of a time about the age of thirty to thirty-five when either a severe illness or an accident will befall him. He recovers from that and soon after has a streak of good luck. He will be nearly, if not quite, a hundred years old. He will marry not far from the age of thirty, will get an excellent wife, but he will outlive her. I do not think he will marry the second time. He will have several successful journeys in his life and will be much esteemed wherever he lives. His hand is an exceptionally good one all the way through. He will rise by his own efforts to fame and to a degree of wealth.



"TREBLE."

The others which I have on hand will have to be deferred until next month.

Digitus

WHY DON'T YOU MAKE A SILK QUILT?

Because you have never seen the beautiful remnants for Crazy patchwork we are sending out as Samples **free.** Enough to make a block of eighty square inches, with a nice skein of embroidery silk and a sheet representing all the latest fancy stitches for only **Six cents,** with our newest bargain book of goods for Holiday presents. Send at once to SUNSHINE, Augusta, Maine.

The Duke of Galliera has the finest collection of stamps in the world, valued at $1,250,000.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE HEALING.

ONE MILLION CURED CASES.

You Can Be Cured Whether You Believe in Christian Science or Not.

Over a million cases of disease in every form are now to the credit of Christian Science Healing. Most of these were cases that the doctors had given up as "incurable." Many more were chronic maladies that had baffled their skill for years. All were cured quickly, some were cured instantly. The evidence on these facts is simply indisputable and the curing still goes on. There can be no mistake or misstatement about it. The healers and their work are in the public view. As a C. S. healer my many marvelous cures have startled the world. During the past 13 years I have healed diseases of almost every known kind and in every stage of severity. They included many surgical cases where operations were otherwise threatened. I cured cases that were far away from me, as well as those near at hand. And I tell you in like manner that wherever you may dwell, and whatever be your bodily ailment, or whether one or many physicians have failed to give you relief, if you report the case to me and so desire, you shall be cured. This is no vain or idle promise. My past success fully justifies it. You can be cured whether you believe in Christian Science or not. You can be cured whether in this city or thousands of miles away from me. In our Christian Science Healing distance is of no account; disbelief is not any hindrance; disappointments of the past only make stronger grounds for hope. All you really need is the wish to be healed.

I have just published a little book in regard to this blessed truth called, "A Message of Health and Healing." If you write to me I will gladly send you a COPY FREE. It gives many interesting facts and convincing testimonials. Enclose 2-cent stamp for postage.

S. A. JEFFERSON, C. S. B., 1707 Masonic Temple, Chicago, Ill.



1500 SEWING MACHINES
SECOND-HAND Standard makes, $3 to $10. Shopworn or slightly used samples, $7 to $12. Three years on trial. New Machines ONE-FOURTH PRICE. Largest dealers in the world. Write for Bargain Offer. James L. Mead & Co., Dept. 17 B, Chicago

SEND NO MONEY WITH YOUR ORDER, cut this ad. out and send to us, and we will send you OUR HIGH GRADE DROP CABINET BURDICK SEWING MACHINE by freight C. O. D. subject to examination. You can examine it at your nearest freight depot and if found perfectly satisfactory, exactly as represented, equal to machines others sell as high as $60.00, and THE GREATEST BARGAIN YOU EVER HEARD OF, pay your freight agent Our Special Offer Price, $15.50 and freight charges. The machine weighs 120 lbs. and the freight will average 75 cents for each 500 miles. GIVE IT THREE MONTHS' TRIAL in your own home, and we will return your $15.50 any day you are not satisfied. We sell different makes and grades of Sewing Machines at $8.50, $10.00, $11.00, $12.00 and up, all fully described in Our Free Sewing Machine Catalogue, but $15.50 for this DROP DESK CABINET BURDICK is the greatest value ever offered by any house.

BEWARE OF IMITATIONS by unknown concerns who copy our advertisments, offering unknown machines under various names, with various inducements. Write some friend in Chicago and learn who are RELIABLE AND WHO ARE NOT.

THE BURDICK has every MODERN IMPROVEMENT; EVERY GOOD POINT OF EVERY HIGH GRADE MACHINE MADE, WITH THE DEFECTS OF NONE. MADE BY THE BEST MAKER IN AMERICA FROM THE BEST MATERIAL MONEY CAN BUY.



This shows the machine closed to be used as a center table, stand or desk.



This illustration shows the machine open, ready for use.

SOLID QUARTER SAWED OAK DROP DESK CABINET, PIANO POLISHED. One illustration shows machine closed, (head dropping from sight) to be used as a center table, stand or desk; the other open with full length table and head in place for sewing. Four fancy drawers, latest 1899 skeleton frame, carved, paneled, embossed and decorated cabinet finish, finest nickel drawer pulls' rests on 4 casters, ball-bearing adjustable treadle genuine Smyth iron stand. Finest large High Arm head, positive four motion feed, self threading vibrating shuttle, automatic bobbin winder, adjustable bearings, patent tension liberator, improved loose wheel, adjustable presser foot, improved shuttle carrier, patent needle bar, patent dress guard, head is handsomely decorated and ornamented and beautifully Nickel Trimmed. GUARANTEED the lightest running, most durable and nearest noiseless machine made. Every known attachment is furnished and our Free Instruction Book tells just how anyone can run it and do either plain or any kind of fancy work. A 20-YEAR BINDING GUARANTEE is sent with every machine. IT COSTS YOU NOTHING to see and examine this machine, compare it with those your storekeeper sells at $40.00 to $60.00, and then if convinced you are saving $25.00 to $40.00, pay your freight agent the $15.50. WE TO RETURN YOUR $15.50 if at any time within three months you say you are not satisfied. ORDER TODAY. DON'T DELAY. (Sears, Roebuck & Co. are thoroughly reliable.—Editor.)

Address, SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO. (Inc.) Chicago, Ill.

A CHAIR CLAIMED to be worth $4.50, is being advertised as a premium with a Sewing Machine. We will furnish the exact same chair when wanted for 50 cents.

Boys & Girls



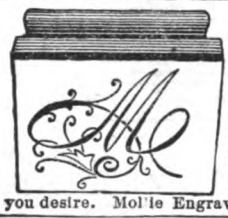
We are giving away Watches, Cameras, Solid Gold Rings, Sporting Goods, Musical Instruments & many other valuable premiums to boys & girls for selling 18 packages of Royal English Ink Powder at 10c. each. Every package makes 50c. worth of fine ink. We ask no money—send your name and address & we will forward you 18 packages with premium list and full instructions. When you sell the Ink Powder send the money to us and select your premium. This is an honest offer. We trust you. Don't lose this grand opportunity. Write for the outfit today. Address all orders to IMPERIAL INK CONCERN, 22 Adams St. Oak Park, Ill.

Make Money with a stick of ELECTRIC SOLDER and a Candle. You can make a leaky pail or pan as good as new in one minute. No iron, no acid, no rosin, no skill or experience required. You can earn $5 doing soldering for your neighbors with the Solder and Instructions we send you FREE, with a six months' subscription to HOME CHEER for 10 cents. H. Franklin Jones, Dept. 7, Brooklyn, N.Y.



FAMILY RECORD Beautiful pictures, rich colors, size 16x22. Tremendous seller. Agents delighted. Sells quick at 50c. Sample free. Send 12c. for postage, etc. 9 for $1.00. HOME ART PICTURE CO., Chicago, Ill.

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Stamp your initial in gilt on your stationery, linens, books, etc. In order to introduce our indelible ink and gilt, we are going to give away 5,000 of these Rubber Stamp Initials. This is just a special introductory offer and will last but a limited time. Send 10c to pay postage and packing and we will send any initial you desire. Mollie Engraving Co., St. Louis, Mo.

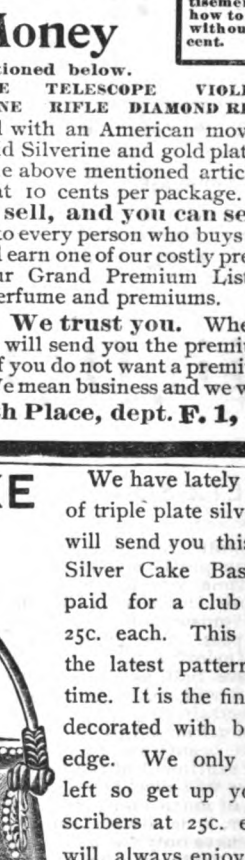
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NON-EXPLOSIVE NIGHT LAMP.



We will send you one of these Lamps with Nickle base, fine handsome pleated shade, chimney etc., all complete if you will send us 15 cents for a six months' trial subscription to our great monthly "SUNSHINE" either in your own or a friend's name. We want '99 to be the banner year for our list and offer this great premium as an inducement for you to take our paper right along. You can make money offering the New Lamp and Exquisite Perfumery with new subscribers. Send 15c. at once and we send sample combined Bottle Perfume and this Ornamental and Petite Lamp. Two Lamps and subscriptions and two lots of Perfumery for 25c. order quick and get agents' terms and low cash discounts in big lots. Address SUNSHINE, Augusta, Me.



FREE SIX EXQUISITE AND COSTLY FINGER RINGS.



WE TRUST AGENTS with 20 Mineral Lamp Wicks. Best wick in the World, Light Equal to Gas. No Smoke, No Smell, No Trimming, No Broken Chimneys. Can be sold in an hour or two at 5 cents each. When sold send us the money, $1.00, and we give you free any two of these Solid Gold laid rings. The Stone Set Rings are equal in appearance to costly Diamonds. The Band Rings are elegant in design and all are warranted to wear well and give satisfaction. We take back unsold goods, No cash wanted until wicks are sold. Write to MINERAL WICK CO. PROVIDENCE, R. I.



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Our Watch is a good one. It is fitted with an American movement, and keeps correct time. We have it in two styles, solid Silverine and gold plated. We give this beautiful watch or either of the above mentioned articles, for selling only 15 packages of our perfume, at 10 cents per package. **Our perfume is something that does sell, and you can sell it quickly,** as we give a fine gold plated ring to every person who buys perfume from you. Order the perfume at once and earn one of our costly premiums. We send the perfume postpaid, also our Grand Premium List, which fully explains everything about our perfume and premiums.



Don't send us a cent. We trust you. When the perfume is sold, send us the money and we will send you the premium that you select. ☞**Cash Commission.** If you do not want a premium, we will let you keep over half of the money. We mean business and we will treat you right.

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SILVER CAKE BASKET FREE FREE



We have lately taken a large amount of triple plate silverware on a debt and will send you this Elegant, Gold lined Silver Cake Basket free, all charges paid for a club of six subscribers at 25c. each. This **Cake Basket** is of the latest pattern and will wear a life time. It is the finest silver plate, highly decorated with beautiful patent rolled edge. We only have a few of them left so get up your club of six subscribers at 25c. each, to-day, and you will always enjoy it. You can sell this basket for $3.98 in a minute. If you can't get up the club, send us $1.38 cash and we will send the Basket by express and include one year's subscription. We also have a fine five Bottle Silver Castor and a Superb Silver Butter Dish at the same price if you prefer either one to the Basket. Address,

COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

A GENEROUS OFFER!

George B. Wright Discovers a Cure for Lost Manhood and Sends it Free to Every Sufferer Who Will Write For It.

Gratitude is one of the noblest impulses of the human heart, and in few instances has this fine quality been so conspicuously exemplified as in the case of George B. Wright, of Marshall.

Mr. Wright is a merchant and well known citizen of Marshall, Mich., who was permanently cured of lost manhood and nervous debility after declining health for years. He now devotes his life to helping other men who suffer as he once suffered. Mr. Wright offers to send the medical prescription that effected a cure in his case to every reader of COMFORT who is suffering to-day as he suffered. All who will drop him a letter asking for a copy of the prescription will receive it by return mail free of charge.

The following editorial by A. N. Tally, M. D., regarding Mr. Wright's prescription for lost manhood, appeared in the December 1899 issue of the *United States Health Reports*, published at Washington, D. C.:

We, as the highest American authority on all matters of Health, Sanitation and Hygiene, are constantly receiving letters of inquiry about a reliable cure for lost strength in men.

Therefore we have ordered an investigation to be made into the subject and our Medical Staff found there were many so-called cures on the market but that many were worthless and some actually harmful. Therefore when we came upon the prescription furnished free by George B. Wright, a merchant of Marshall, Michigan, we instituted a most thorough laboratory examination and found that its wonderful efficacy depended upon its being exactly compounded according to proper chemical requirements in order to establish the proper chemical actions and reactions in the human system and that it should especially, and above all, contain each and every ingredient named in the prescription, otherwise it would be quite inactive and worthless.

Properly mixed and containing everything called for in the prescription, its effect upon the nerve centers is truly wonderful and its nerve tonic properties easily surpassed all ordinary methods of medication.

Among the benefactors of the race may be mentioned the said George B. Wright, inasmuch that he gives this grand discovery free to all who write for it.

Taken according to directions it builds up the weak and restores to full size and vigor the nerve muscles. It brings hope and cheer and lifts up the discouraged man so that he once more enjoys the beauties of nature and the pleasures of life. Failure in business and love surely falls upon him who is weakened physically and mentally and this sad condition is at once relieved and a new man made of him who uses this prescription.



G. B. WRIGHT.

Therefore, upon the highly favorable report of our Medical Staff we extend to George B. Wright's Prescription for Lost Manhood the full editorial and official endorsement of the United States Health Reports.

As certain as a wound leaves a scar, and as sure as effect follows cause, do men live to repent their follies and indiscretions in weakness and suffering. The tortured sufferer may bear no tell-tale marks of ruin upon his face to betray his lost manhood. He goes to his grave a human wreck, and never tells of his sufferings for fear of shame. Such mental anguish at times drives him to the verge of desperation, and he is easy prey for those vultures in human form—quack doctors—who hold out alluring hopes of cure only to disappoint, and after robbing him of his money, plunge him into absolute despair.

No one can appreciate these horrors of lost manhood except he who has suffered them. No one can help such sufferers except he who knows a cure and has himself been restored to full manhood. A notable cure of lost manhood in an extreme case was effected in the person of George B. Wright, a music dealer and well known citizen of Marshall, Mich. Mr. Wright for years suffered the agony of lost vital power. He saw his physical power go from him as the result of insidious disease, until he was reduced to a condition of senility, and the best doctors in the country gave him up to die.

Like many others, he tried the various remedies offered by specialists for the treatment of weaknesses peculiar to men, and it was this experience that drove him to a little study and research for his own benefit.

He asserts that his 10 years' suffering, both mentally and physically, was turned to unbounded joy in a single night through a rare combination of medicines that literally made him young again. It is the prescription of this discovery that his enthusiasm leads him to offer free to any man, young or old, who feels that his animation or the fire of ambition has left him and needs something that will brace him up and enable him to be prepared for any undertaking which may present itself.

There is no question but what in his individual case the results were just as described, and it seems quite probable that any man who believes himself to be weak may profit by sending for his free prescription. Many people wonder how he can afford to send this prescription free, but it costs him little to do so, and he feels a philanthropic interest in giving weak men an opportunity to cure themselves.

A request to G. B. Wright, music dealer, Box 855, Marshall, Mich., for his free prescription, will be promptly and privately complied with by return mail.

A NEW ENGLAND MINE.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



One DOES not expect to find mines in New England, and yet there is a mine far up among the Berkshire Hills in Western Massachusetts, which although it was discovered less than twenty years ago, has made its owner many times a millionaire. This mine is in the town of Rowe; but the village of five hundred inhabitants which has grown up around the mouth of the shaft is called Davis, after the name of the man who discovered the mine and owns it.

The ore which is dug out here is iron pyrites, more commonly known as "sulphur ore," because it contains a large per cent. of sulphur. To look at, it would seem to be a rock made up of dark gray sand and flakes of gold tightly glued together. One name for it is "fool's gold," because so many people have been deluded by its glitter into mining for gold where gold could never be found.

Sulphur ore is used for making sulphuric acid, for which the demand in this country has increased enormously during the last ten years, especially for use in making fertilizers. This is partly due to the lower price at which the acid can be made since it was found possible to make it from iron pyrites ore. Until this was known the acid was made from brimstone, all of which had to be imported. There is hardly a farmer in the whole United States, now, who is not indebted for a part of his success on the farm to the man who discovered how to use this ore.

When iron pyrites ore is pure it contains 53 per cent. of sulphur and 47 per cent. of iron, but it is rarely found pure. Most ore contains lead, zinc, copper and arsenic. The ore from the mine at Davis is more pure than that from many other places, and as it contains no arsenic makes a pure white acid, such as is made from brimstone. This is not only the only one of the kind in New England, but it is almost the only one of the kind in the United States. There are also mines in Canada and in other parts of the world. The owner of the mine at Davis also owns a similar mine in Spain.

No acid is made at Davis. The ore is sold and shipped all over the country to firms who manufacture it into acid to suit themselves. The acid is made by burning the ore in furnaces. As it is heated the sulphur passes off in fumes similar to those one smells when a match is lighted. These fumes are collected and subjected to a process which condenses the acid from them. If the fumes from a match are allowed to strike a flower or a leaf they make the part of a plant lose its color and wither, so deadly are the effects of the fumes upon vegetation. In some places where great quantities of the ores are burned so much of this gas escapes that all the trees and plants for a considerable distance around are blighted and killed. As no ore is burned at Davis, though, this unfortunate effect does not follow there, and it would be hard to find a more beautiful place than this mining hamlet among the Green Mountains.

The story of the way in which the mine was discovered is interesting. For a great many years the farmers who have lived in Rowe have noticed that there were odd-looking rocks in some parts of the town, and people who have been there have seen specimens gathered as curiosities or for their mere beauty. In 1881 a New England man who was in New York City happened to see a piece of rock lying on the desk of Mr. H. J. Davis, a man who had been prospecting and mining in different parts of the country for several years. This man told Mr. Davis that he knew where there was a lot of rock like the piece on the desk. As a result of this conversation Mr. Davis came to Massachusetts with the man, and was guided by him to a place in the town of Rowe where, among the boulders washed clean by the waters of a brook flowing through a pasture was one rock which glittered in the sunlight with the particles which people call "fool's gold."

After Mr. Davis had seen this boulder he obtained permission from the man who owned the farm through which the brook ran, to dig down into the ground to see if he could find more, and if he did to blast out enough to load a car to be sent away as a sample. The report which came back from this carload was so favorable that a part of this man's farm was bought, and mining begun in good earnest. Since then several of the adjoining farms have been bought, and a village with schoolhouse, store, boarding house, tenement houses and several good residences, has been built.

The mine is now down to a depth of nearly a thousand feet. Its annual yield is about 60,000 tons of ore a year, which makes about a freight-train load for each working day. The ore is drilled and blasted, compressed air being used to work the drills. The ore comes to the surface in lumps about as big as a man's head, and is broken up by hand, the men who do this work using long-handled steel hammers. It is more profitable to have this work done by hand because the ore sells for the highest price when broken into pieces about the size of an egg. If broken by machinery too much of the ore is crushed. The advantage of having the ore in this size is that it can then be burned on an iron grate, through which the heat passes. All of the ore which is too small for this size, and so would fall between the bars of the grate, is sent to a mill called the "crusher," and ground to a powder about like coarse sand. This is burned on slabs made of fire-clay, but as the process is much more expensive than that of burning on grates, the fine ore cannot be sold for as much as the coarse.

The men who work in the mine are all Italians, and many of those who work on the surface are of the same nationality. The village of Davis is therefore a sort of "little Italy," built up among the mountains of Massachusetts. Not very many of these men have families, because most Italians do not plan to stay in this country only long enough to save two or three thousand dollars with which they intend to go back to Italy, and buy a farm on which they can settle down and live rich for all the rest of their lives. There are enough of the men who have families, though, so that there is a school in which nearly all of the twenty-five pupils are Italian children. When these children first begin to come to school it is rarely that any of them can talk a word of English. Think how odd the work of a teacher must be whose first task is to teach her pupils to talk the English language.

The men are steady and industrious, and very saving of their wages. The village is quiet for a mining settlement. The men drink large quantities of beer and liquor, which they send away and buy by the keg, but they never get quarrelsome and the long distance which they are removed from any city seems to have freed them from the unfavorable influence which crowding men together often seems to produce. They are a musical and pleasure-loving community, having grounds arranged for playing various out-door games, a band-stand and a queer artificial summer garden, made by setting up small trees and the branches of larger trees around a level wooden floor, on which they gather to dance, drink and eat in the shade of the trees which they have tied up to the frame around the floor. The entrance to this garden is through a long, neatly covered and shady arbor.

Davis is four miles from Charlemont, a station on the Fitchburg railroad, eight miles east of the Hoosac Tunnel. All of the ore has to be drawn to Charlemont to be loaded onto the cars. It takes twenty teams working all of the time, the year around, to draw the ore.

1900 LACE VALENTINES. 1900

Beautiful new designs, Lace borders, the most exquisite assortment of valentines we ever offered and the most for your money. Six for five cents.
COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

5000 ZOUZAN MASCOT CHARMS FREE
Read carefully. Don't miss this offer. Send 50c. (money order) for our popular New Songs, and receive free 2 jewelled Hat Pins and Charm. To Gentlemen Charm and Cuff Links. Splendid prizes for clubs. We do only a cash business.
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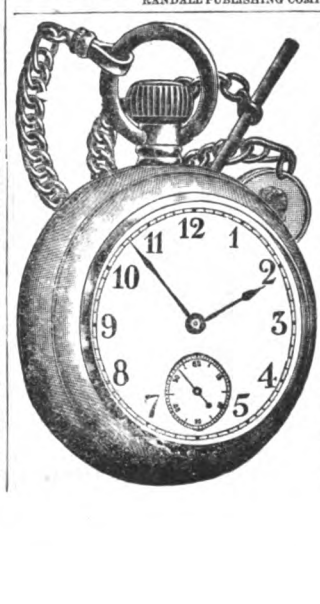


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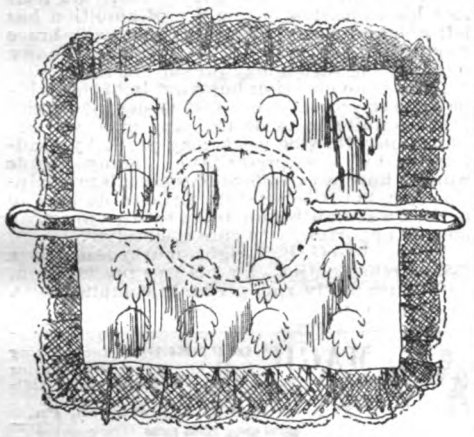


WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



THE question which confronts mothers of girls when they get into their teens, is the comparative value of the boarding school and the regular grammar and High school course. The aim of the average girl's education is to fit her for domestic life, and all things being equal, the girl with the broadest culture and the most accomplishments lives the fullest life and is in touch with the most people. If a girl associates with only one set of people, her growth will be in the same general direction as is theirs. With new surroundings, new instructors and new friends come new ideas, and a better knowledge of how people in different circles and under different atmospheres live, and this is a powerful mental stimulant. Often unsuspected talents manifest themselves which would never have received special thought under other conditions. There can be no doubt as to benefits of the boarding school from a mental standpoint. But the taking of a girl out of her home environment at this age, from fourteen to seventeen, is a risky thing to do, unless the girl is naturally self-reliant and has been well-trained by her mother. The great point in favor of this course, is the inevitable result which must come to a girl from being under strict discipline, for any disposition toward untidy habits is quickly nipped in the bud, and the girl who has to daily put up with untidy habits in her roommate will not fall into these bad ways herself.

There is no possible doubt as to the good



HANDKERCHIEF BAG, OPEN.

effect upon a girl who is in this way thrown upon her own resources so far as the daily care of her room, wardrobe, recreations etc., is concerned, and it is a remarkably good thing to let a girl get away from her mother's care in this direction, for a time, for mothers are prone to do all those little things for their daughters which should be left for *them* to do, after they get to be twelve years old, often forgetting that they have arrived at the age when they should take the responsibility of their own wardrobes and rooms, m nding and repairing their own clothes. Some sensible mothers have their daughters do the family mending every other week, at least, and this brings to them the knowledge of all kinds of patching and darning which is such a useful thing to be able to do. Unless there is a possibility of a college course for a girl, or a long course of travel to take her away from home and thus develop her, a girl who is sent away to boarding school between the ages of fourteen and eighteen is a much better equipped girl for entering society and meeting all grades of people as she will be obliged to do, than the one who has simply lived in her own home and seen little of people outside her own immediate neighborhood which comprises her school and church friends.

We came across, the other day, a bag for holding embroidery, and as it is easily made, and possibly a new idea to some of the readers of this department, we show two illustrations of it—one open, and the other closed.

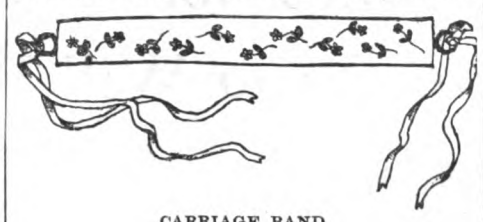
The bag is made from a fancy silk handkerchief of rather large size, and the bags are more durable when made from dark colored ones, also prettier, as the contrast is stronger between the silk and the lace which is used on the edge. First sew all around, on the edge, some lace about two inches deep. This may be put on plain with fullness simply at the corners, or may be fulled all the way, making a ruffle, which adds to the dainty and dressy appearance of the bag. Cream or ecru lace is preferred. Then take a tuck, in a circle, about midway between the center and edges of the handkerchief, running through this tuck two pieces of narrow ribbon for a draw string, to come out at opposite sides, using ribbon to match some tint in the handkerchief. This is all there is to it, and yet it is very effective. May also be used as a bag for duster, to hang on a door knob, or on a chair back.



CLOSED.

Our other illustration shows a carriage band. This is one of the new things in the shops and is very useful and dainty. For a baby carriage, of course, and particularly useful in the go-carts so much used now by children old enough to sit up.

The band is made of ribbon two inches wide, and one-half yard is enough. Have stamped on one-half of this some sprays of forget-me-not—which seems to be the baby's flower—and embroider and press the same. Then cut a strip of white wadding, two inches wide and nine inches long and baste onto the wrong side of the embroidered part, folding over onto the wadding the other end of the ribbon. Sew the edges of the front and back part of ribbon together, also end, over and over. Have two brass rings about the size of a penny, and crochet them with silk the shade of that used in



CARRIAGE BAND.

the flowers in the embroidery. Sew one ring to each end of the bands. Then tie into the rings, one yard into each, some half inch ribbon of a shade to match rings, leaving the ends free. These ends, of course, tie into the arms of the carriage, and the baby is well fastened in, and her appearance is much improved by the use of the pretty band in place of the usual leather strap.

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WITHOUT ANY LABOR OR EXPENSE.

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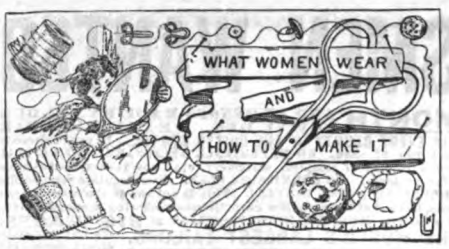
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WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



IF all predictions come true we are to have a host of beautiful new things for Spring. First of all are the skirts; single-pleats, box-pleats, kilt pleats, accordian pleats and every other sort of pleat ever known to man. The wise woman will conclude at once that it will be a difficult season for the home-dressmaker; for all these pleats are hard to lay and still harder to keep in shape. However, they are the latest cry and every blessed woman who can will have at least one skirt of this style. Habit back and fan-pleated back have entirely given over to the box-pleated back, as suggested in the sketch. The pleat graduates from the belt to the hem, and is often fancifully stitched or embroidered. It has proven a very becoming finish to the back of a skirt, emphasizing as it does the clinging custom.

While they are fresh in my mind I would like to tell you about some dreams of ball gowns to be worn at a smart New York function in the near future. One is blue, just like a glimpse of blue sky in the summer, hazy and soft; the long, trailing skirt is de chene, so soft the entire skirt could be drawn through the half-closed hand. Over this beautiful material is scattered creamy lace roses of quite large size, the edges of each outlined with a minute ruching of blue tulle. At the foot are billows of tulle and yellow lace of an open design matching the roses on the silk. A feature of this skirt are the pieces, back and front, which extend up over the waist, giving the effect of a Princess. What can be seen of the low bodice is composed of inch-wide straps of blue broadcloth set together with lace roses of a smaller size than those used on the skirt. A second perfect gown, is pink Liberty satin, and as it is intended for a slim figure, shirrings are used instead of pleats. The skirt has the outer part lifted at the back and caught into a group of shirrs giving a slightly draped effect. At the foot, over several flaring flounces of creamy net trimmed with rows of pink velvet ribbon is an applique of heavy white lace, the opening filled with ruchings of pink tulle. The tiny bodice made me think of a rose with its tiny shirrings alternate of tulle and satin. Shaded satin roses edge the shoulders, made to look very natural by means of drops of pearls looking like dew.

A broadcloth ball gown sounds most incongruous, and yet made over a silk drop skirt it is neither heavy nor cumbersome, and the clinging lines of the woolen fabric are most effective, revealing all the beauties of a good figure—producing in fact, a tailor-made evening girl. The question has been brought up frequently as to what constitutes the difference between a ball and a dinner gown. It is rather difficult to tell at first glance, for a large majority of the dinner gowns are quite elaborate enough to wear at a dance, although it may properly be very much plainer than a dancing frock. For instance, long sleeves are seen in most of the dinner gowns and are considered very smart, while for a ball gown they are not considered good style. A gown of gray white panne velvet, cut very low in the neck and quite off the shoulders, has a very odd pair of sleeves of the velvet that start below the straps of lace over the shoulder. These sleeves are unlined, are very long, and have rather the effect of mousquetaire gloves the same shade as the gown, for they are loose enough to wrinkle on the arms, although they are fitted as snugly as gloves. Of course these sleeves may be taken out if desired, and the gown is then smart enough for a ball gown.



Butterfly brooches and hair ornaments are quite the fad. They make charming bonnet pins to gleam in the heart of a big chiffon choux, to fasten the tulle ties of the dressy hat, or to glisten among the folds of the lace cravat. The loveliest of these butterflies are tinted and gemmed to suit one's special style of beauty. A butterfly made for an April maiden, is of pale enamel with rays of gold slanted across the wings, which are studded with diamonds.

Coral necklaces are much in vogue, and for the cotton shirt waists are sets of studs of coral to match. It is a dainty idea to follow the color in the waist; coral with pink, and turquoise with blue.

A novel idea in belts is shown by a well-known New York milliner. It is an arrangement of ribbon with pulleys and attachments at the back for holding the skirt in place without the use of pins. They have a tendency to make the waist appear longer, and by means of the pulleys the size certainly can be reduced considerably.

A feature of the spring tailor gown will be its trimming of taffeta bands, some several inches in width while the narrower bands will be more commonly used. Bands an inch wide are used to overlap all the seams in the smart little coats, and to outline the edge of the jacket as well as to trim the sleeves. Often the bands are stitched in rows with a color to match or with white, making a sharp contrast. Almost like a bolt from the blue have sprung into our midst spots—large, small, medium—tumbling one over the other like the starry heavens, or placed at regular intervals wide apart. Light cloths are spotted with black velvet, as are satins and silks, while as for spotted velvets, they are legion. One lovely pattern was broken up by little lines of dashes; doubtless the idea was borrowed from a foulard, but expressed in black velvet on a delicate mastic cloth it was at once invested with a delightful element of novelty.

In making these spotted stuffs up the monotony is relieved by mixing with plain material, possibly in the guise of an underskirt and sleeves, for contrasting sleeves are rather catching onto popular favor again.

Only a little time ago we were convinced of



the beauty and suitability of the short French corset, and now there is another cry to which those of you who aim to be in the van of fashion will do well to listen seriously. This new corset owns for its chiefest feature, a perfectly straight busk, the waist, that is to say, directly in the front, being not in any way defined, and the cut over the hips is remarkably short, leaving full play there, while it seems to be a matter of choice altogether whether at the top they are quite low or only moderately so. I must not forget to tell you a few interesting details of the suspender. Under the new regime of the straight busk, this is clasped to the edge of the corset on both sides of the front, the straps fastened to the stockings, gaining the double end of supporting the hosiery and holding down the stomach.

Blouses and spencer waists are to have absolutely flat backs, neither pleats nor tucks, nor yoke, nor yet anything being permitted to break the monotony of the plain surface. It is only by diligent attention to these small details that we are granted the privilege of the loose waist. On new sleeves there is a distinct leaning toward tiny flat epaulettes. These are generally cut in one with the shoulder piece; then revers are generally double or rippled, and so lend a becoming breadth to the figure.

A quite novel epaulette had its dividing seam accentuated by tiny buttons and was very pretty and chic.

Speaking of buttons reminds me of another waist that owes its success to a yoke of velvet, ostensibly buttoned on to the under part of some soft woolen material, which was slightly eased. Small yokes, too, outlined by strappings, the mitred ends whereof are crossed and held with buttons are very effective, and again, a noteworthy feature will be contrasting colors of panne velvet with revers of the same. I am glad to see that the actual silk shirt waist, with linen collar and cuffs, is far in the past. Though simple silk shirts are worn they are not now considered at all smart unless accompanied by pretty lace turnover collars and soft stock ties. So many people make the mistake of having a silk shirt too tight. When one is not comfortable there can be no beauty.



How many years ago were boleros invented, or, rather, introduced into our favor? Their decease has been prognosticated for a long time yet they flourish and abound as merrily as ever and are likely to be even more popular, with forms so varied that all requirements can be satisfied. Much stitching and braiding is to be seen, especially when collars and revers give opportunity for such decoration. But one thing is imperative, that the bolero or Eton are of the same material as the skirt, no different fabric or coloring are permissible. Facings of other materials, of course, are introduced, and cloth upon cloth, differing in color only, is a feature of tailor-built costumes of to-day, the costume in which the bolero plays such an important part. The smart little Eton sketched here has an oddity, inasmuch as it has a short point at the back while the fronts are no longer than the sides. It has a coat collar of velvet and revers rolling open to the edge of the jacket. The velvet applique is set on in girdle fashion, a form of garniture sure to be much in vogue.

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FAT



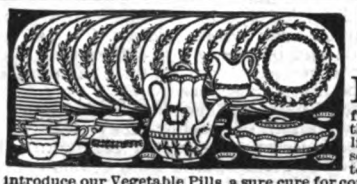
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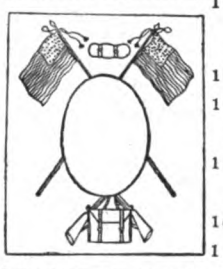
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1 Conventional design for Bulgarian work, for scarf ends, or doily corners, 4x8 in.
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1 Border design for flannel embroidery, 1 in. wide.
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1 design for lamp shade, Butterfly.
1 design, Tiger lily, 6½x10 inches.
1 Scallop border for flannel work, ¾ in. wide.
1 Empire corner design, with Fleur de Lis, 9x9 inches.
1 design for delph work, 2½x3 inches.
1 Wreath and bow-knot design for monogram, 3½x4 inches.
1 Spray of Mignonette, 6x6 inches.
1 Spray Lily of the valley, 2½x3 inches.
1 Empire design for twin picture frames, 10x12 inches.
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1 design for penwiper with motto, 4x7 inches.
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1 Dog's head for art work, 1½x2 inches.
1 design of Mountain pine, with motto (see illustration), 11x14 inches.
1 design American flags, 7x7 inches.
1 design Poppies and leaves, 4x10 inches.
1 design for picture frame, American flags, etc. (see illustration), 8x10 inches.
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IN THE ANTARCTIC.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



ANTARCTIC adventure is never without interest to the world. Its hardships and its privations awake in the human breast an admiration and sympathy which no other trials can. Then, too, there is a mystery and a symbolism about the northern pole of our sphere which attracts every one whose imagination is not blunted with over civilization. But now, in these latter days explorers, looking for new worlds to conquer, turn toward the other end of the earth's axis, and find there a wonderland more marvelous than any at the north, and a continent of such area that years will pass before the civilized world can know of its extent and wonders.

Up to the present time little has been known of the far southern seas. The Antarctic Ocean is far removed from all the continents inhabited by civilized nations. South America and Africa as they approach the south narrow to mere points, and Australia is too far from the cold southern sea to be closely interested in its attractions. Until within a few years none but whaling vessels had visited the Antarctic Ocean; but scientists and geographers now believe that within its limits, more than in any other part of the earth, important work of exploration must be accomplished. To this end several expeditions are now being fitted out, one from England and one from Germany. It is hoped that these will work together and thus accomplish much valuable work.

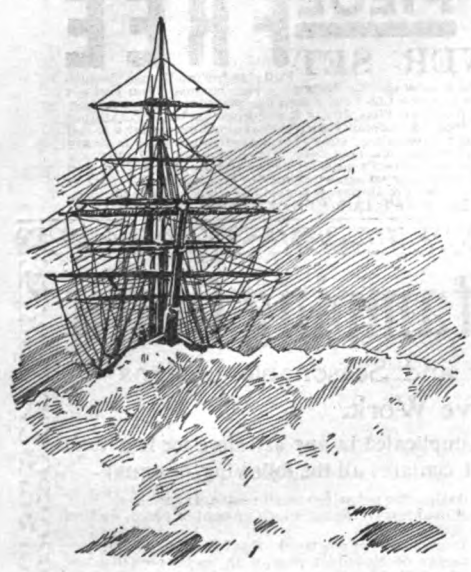
Two years ago a Belgian expedition was sent out, remaining two years in southern waters, but they did not succeed in landing upon the southern continent.

More successful, however, was the expedition under the leadership of Borchgrevinck, which sailed from England in the summer of 1898. The ship chosen for the trip was the "Southern Cross" and it was carefully fitted out to brave the dangers of frigid seas. Mr. Borchgrevinck had already had some experience in Antarctic waters and had, in fact, landed on Victoria Land five years before, though he had been unable to explore as he wished.

One must remember that the seasons, in that far away climate, occur at exactly opposite times from ours, so that on Dec. 19, 1898, the "Southern Cross" left Hobart Town, Tasmania, that it might get through the ice pack during the summer heat of December and January. In about two weeks she sighted the great ice pack, sparkling with the irridescence of the frozen regions. Some of the pack was composed of floes several miles in length and the channels between them were narrow. The "Southern Cross" entered one of these dangerous openings and for six weeks encountered terrible dangers constantly. The ice packed and jammed on all sides and piled up about the vessel until it seemed that she must go to pieces. At one time she was fairly buried in ice, great blocks rising to the level of the deck.

The middle of February found the brave party and their staunch craft in open water off Cape Adair, Victoria Land. After waiting for terrific gales to subside, a landing was made in Robertson Bay. Here, with great difficulty were landed stores and material for huts.

Cape Adair is a promontory a thousand feet high, from which the snow is blown as it falls, leaving bare the rocks and boulders which



THE SHIP IN THE ICE PACK.

compose it. So strong are the winds from the south that great rocks were blown from this mountain to the ship's deck during a cyclone. Two of the party succeeded in reaching the summit of this mountain, but only with the most terrible suffering in the face of a terrific gale. Three distinct kinds of moss were found on the ascent, exactly like the reindeer moss of the north. Near the bottom of the mountain the party made a valuable discovery. It was a vein of quartz, milky with blue streaks in it and very heavy, and had every indication of being gold bearing quartz.

Huts were built near the shore and everything made ready for winter. Already valuable scientific observations had been made and the zoological collections had been begun with over one hundred rare birds' skins, and a new species of seal had been discovered.

On February 27, 1899, the "Southern Cross" departed for the north, leaving behind ten brave men, who were determined to accomplish much before the world heard from them again. They, with their dogs, would explore the southern continent, take observations of phenomena seen only in the far southern seas, and collect specimens of those animals and plants which are as yet unknown to the world.

Soon the ship will go south again and bring back the sturdy adventurers, who were willing to risk their lives that man might know better this earth on which he lives.

The Story of an Arrowhead.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



THIS is a bit of chipped stone with a history! It was picked up on the prairies of Kansas where its last owner had dropped it as he flew over the plains on his fleet pony. That owner was no ordinary Indian but a chief of some repute and he knew where to go for his arrowheads. Far to the south, into Arizona, he journeyed and there he knew a spot where stone already chipped, might be had for the taking, and in such abundance that his tribe would be supplied for generations. Brush the dust and mud from the arrowhead and what do we find? A beautful bit of moss agate with the delicate tracing of an ancient plant within its stony center. This plant grew perhaps a million years ago in the Arizona forest, now a petrified forest. Most of us have seen bits of petrified wood but how many Americans know of the Petrified Forests of Arizona. Their history goes far, far back to the time when that whole region was a wooded plain near the sea. Slowly the land sank beneath the surface of the water. Year after year the mineral matter in the water (and there was abundance of it) soaked into the wood taking the place of the woody fiber. Now the forces of nature were reversed and the rocky forest, together with the clay and sandstone in which it was imbedded, was raised out of the sea to its present height thousands of feet above sea level.



TREE PETRIFIED INTO AN AGATE BRIDGE.

As the years passed by the wind and rain wore away the surrounding rock and to-day that ancient forest stands revealed to us but it is the forest of olden times only in form. Take an axe and attempt to fell one of the trees and all about you will fly chips of flint, of agate or of smoky quartz. These are the chips which our Indian chief treasured for arrowheads. These stone logs are sometimes three or four feet in diameter and a cross section shows the rings, fibers and bark of the ancient tree. It is possible to cut slices from these trees and this material is highly valued for table tops and house decorations. Tiffany, in New York, has several articles made from this petrified wood and their price speaks for the value that is placed upon such rare articles. The stone is very hard and brittle and is difficult to cut, an ordinary stone saw together with diamond dust being the instrument used.

In several parts of the Petrified Forest the trees have fallen, or rather they fell in the long ages before man came on earth, and these fallen trunks often span a deep chasm beneath, forming bridges of solid agate, over which one may cross from side to side of what may have been an ancient stream. Cutting and polishing this wood is the work of many of the inhabitants of these regions, and because it is capable of such a brilliant polish it is becoming very valuable for jewelry as well as other decoration. But to the Indian of a century ago these "wood piles" were of value for the sharp edged chips which the weather has torn from the trees.

In some parts of the forest are masses of the wood showing most wonderful crystals and delicate colors of topaz and amethyst which are of great value as mineralogical specimens.

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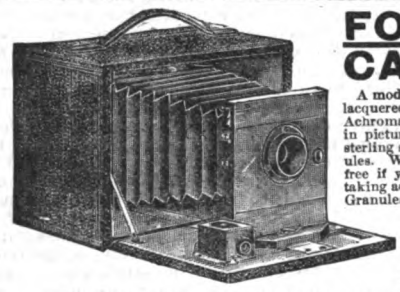
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THE GIANT OXIE CO., Box 1120, Augusta, Maine.

GEORGE WASHINGTON.

AS A MAN AND A MASON.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



THE majority of historical works affirm that George Washington was born on February 22d, 1732, but in the old family Bible the entry of his birth reads "George Washington, son to Augustine and Mary his wife, was born on ye 11th day of February 1732, about ten in the morning and was baptized the 3d of April following. Mr Beverly Whiting and Captain Christopher Brooks, godfathers and Mrs. Mildred Gregory godmother."

This date, as given in the old Bible being in accordance with the calendars then used and equivalent to February 22d, of our later ones.

Washington and his family always observed the 11th as his birthday until his twentieth year, and the first known public celebration of his birth was on February 11th, 1784.

Washington secured a fair education and fitted himself for surveyor, following that line of work for several years, three of which were spent in the employ of Lord Fairfax. During the last year of these three his brother died, leaving the estate of Mount Vernon to his daughter with the provision that if she died without issue, it should then go to his brother George Washington.

The daughter died in 1752, and having no children Washington came into possession of the place which is to-day sacred ground because it was his home, and is his last resting place.

Washington became a Mason before he attained his majority, as shown by the old records of the Fredericksburg Lodge, which record his presence there on Nov. 4, 1752, which is probably the date of his initiation. The records show, also, that four months elapsed before he became a "Fellow Craft" Mason and eight months before he became a "Master Mason."

The Bible on which Washington was obligated is a small quarto volume, bearing the inscription "Cambridge, printed by John Field, printer to the Universalist, 1668," and is preserved with the seal and the old records of the Lodge.

In 1759, Washington was married to Martha Dandridge Custis, widow of Col. Daniel Parke Custis, who brought with her a son and daughter, to whom Washington took the place of a loving and loved father.

The daughter died just before the opening of the Revolutionary War, but the son, John Parke Custis, served as one of Washington's aides-de-camp until he died from the effects of a fever contracted at Yorktown.

After the death of his step-son, Washington at once adopted his two children, George Washington Parke Custis and Nelly Custis, and these are the children who have been called "The children of Mount Vernon"—Washington's only by adoption.

The ceremony which made George Washington the first President of the United States was performed in New York City on April 30th, 1789, when he was fifty-seven years of age.

Robert R. Livingston, Chancellor of the State of New York and Grand Master of its Grand Lodge of Masons administered the oath of office, using the Bible which belonged to the St. John's Lodge of Masons in the city. Gen. Jacob Morton who was Marshal of the day was also Master of St. John's Lodge and brought the Bible from the altar of the Lodge room for use in the ceremony.

The leaf on which Washington pressed his lips was at once folded over, and very soon after the Lodge caused a complete history of the event and a picture of Washington to be engraved on the cover, and the Bible is still in the possession of St. John's Lodge No. 1.

Washington died on Dec. 14th, 1799, and the funeral services were held at noon on Dec. 18th, Rev. Dr. Davis who was Rector of Washington's church (The Episcopal church of Alexandria) and also a member of the Lodge to which he belonged (No. 22 of Alexandria) conducting them, assisted by the Lodge.

Public Memorial services were held in New York on Dec. 31st, to express the sorrow of the people. The Masonic Fraternity were out in full force, and once more the Bible which Washington was sworn into office on was brought from its place in the Lodge room and carried, just before the Grand Master, in the procession.

Some Masonic Lodges of Boston held private Memorial services while others joined in the public ceremonies, but the Grand Lodge of that jurisdiction waited until the 11th of the following February and then held special services followed by public ceremonies.

At the time of Washington's death the Grand Lodge of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, sent their message of sympathy to Mrs. Washington, at the same time asking tor a lock of his hair, to be placed in a Golden Urn, and preserved with the jewels of the society. The request was granted and when the ceremonies of February 11th were being carried out, the Urn containing the lock of hair was carried in the procession by six distinguished Masons, after which it was placed in the keeping of the Grand Lodge.

Many relics are held by the various Lodges of the country in memory of Washington, but aside from those already named, one of the most valuable is the apron sent to him by the wife of Gen. LaFayette in 1784.

Madame LaFayette made the apron of white silk and embroidered the masonic emblems on it with colored silks. The apron was placed in a valuable rose-wood box, also ornamented with masonic emblems, and delivered to Washington by Gen. LaFayette when he came to America. For a long time this apron was kept at Mount Vernon but was finally presented, by Washington's heirs, to the Washington Benevolent Society, and by them given to the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, in whose possession it remains, while the box in which it was sent is treasured among the possessions of Alexandria Lodge.

Two years before Washington received the apron from Madame LaFayette he had been presented with one by Watson and Cassoul, worked in gold and silver tinsels and showing the French and American flags. From the fact that this apron is kept with the LaFayette box in the possession of Alexandria Lodge, many people make the mistake of supposing it to be the apron which came in the box.

Mention should be made of one other relic, which is of national interest in a double sense. On September 18th, 1793, Washington assisted in laying the south-east corner stone of the Capitol building in Washington, and the ivory gavel which he used on that occasion is preserved by Lodge No. 9 of Georgetown, which was one of the Lodges taking part in the ceremonies.

A MAGIC FLUTE ROMANCE.

John Henderson is the luckiest man in the West. If you don't believe it ask him and he will confess it, and tell you moreover that he owes all his good luck in this life to the Magic Flute. It is a strange story, but the true facts are these: Mr. Henderson was in love. The object of his affections was a beautiful young girl of his native town, Des Moines. She was a musical enthusiast and had suitors by the score, for she was not only charming and beautiful of face and figure, but to these graces she added the talent of a superb musician. Naturally, though Mr. Henderson pressed his suit with great ardor, as he was not a performer on any musical instrument he failed to make the desired impression, however much he loved music, and dearly loved the object of his affections.

Happening in Omaha one day, quite disconsolate, he was astonished to hear sweet and tender strains issuing from the rear door of what proved to be a music store. He paused at the curbstone and listened. It was one of the favorite songs of his beloved, and so mellow and sweet were the sounds that they brought tears to his eyes. Entering the store the stranger asked what sort of an instrument it was that gave forth such magic sounds. He was shown the Magic Flute which had just arrived from New York. Thinking that the instrument that performed such tone miracles must have cost a hundred dollars or more, he was amazed to see what a trifling sum. He bought the instrument, and the next day returned to his native city and that night under the window of the maiden who had rejected him for his lack of musical abilities, Mr. Henderson poured forth his soul in the songs she loved so well. What was the result? The neglected lover was reinstated in the affections of the fair one, the rival suitors retired beaten in the game, and shortly after he was offered a large nightly sum by a celebrated impressario to appear in concert halls of the leading cities of the United States. Mr. and Mrs. Henderson, completely happy and full of gratitude for the workings of the Magic Flute, are at present traveling in the East, playing to large houses, Mrs. Henderson accompanying her husband on the piano. The musical world is amazed and delighted with the performances of Mr. Henderson on the Magic Flute. And yet his case is merely typical. You may not win a lovely bride by your skill on the wonderful instrument, but one thing you can do, even if you do not know one note from another, you can play a tune in five minutes and should delight your friends with it within a week.

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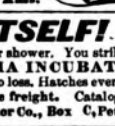
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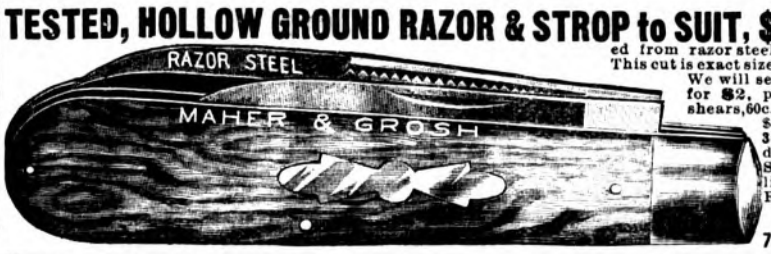


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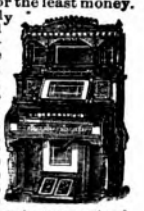
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How Uncle Sam Once Became the Beneficiary of Fate.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT



MANY of the officers who came over from Europe to seek commissions in the Revolutionary army were men of high character and noble lineage who had displayed redoubtable courage, attained military rank and gained extensive practical experience in European wars before they came to America and espoused the cause of the struggling Colonists. Notable among these were General LaFayette, a marquis of the wealthy French nobility, who had risen to the rank of captain of dragoons in the French army and was fired with the spirit of personal sacrifice upon hearing of our struggle for freedom; Frederick W. A. Steuben, a Prussian baron, who had attained the rank of Adjutant-general in the Prussian army, especially distinguished himself in the battle of Prague and Rossbach, held the commission of Adjutant-general on the King's staff, and (after the seven years' war) had been the grand marshall and general of the Prince of Hohenzollern-Hechingen's guard and had, in that capacity, accompanied the Prince himself to many of the courts of Europe; Casimir Pulaski, a Polish count, who had acquired military experience in the service of Duke Charles of Courland, had fought for the liberty of his own unhappy country and had resisted its spoliation and division until further resistance became hopeless and he had been declared an outlaw under the coalition which had been formed by Austria, Russia and Prussia for the conquest and division of Poland; and Thaddeus Rosciuszko, another Polish patriot of noble lineage, who had been educated in the military academy at Warsaw and the military school at Versailles and had afterwards risen to rank of captain in the army of Poland. But there were many others of less note before they came, of less prominence after they arrived, of less force to the glorious struggle in which they engaged, and of less consequence in the history of the stirring times in which they figured; but they were all imbued with the spirit of liberty; they all made heroic sacrifices in espousing its seemingly hopeless struggle against superior forces; they were all associated with more or less adventurous undertakings of romantic chivalry, and they all deserve alike to live forever in American song and story, to be held up for the veneration of each generation of American progeny.

Some of these officers were recruited upon European soil by our agents, or supposed agents, there, and came to the Colonies under special contracts which specified what rank they should hold and what compensation they should receive; but Congress was not always able to meet the financial obligations thus imposed. The difficulties were not only numerous and grave, but they were almost insuperable. Congress was unable to pay the officers during the contest and it encountered great difficulty in obtaining even money enough to send the soldiers to their respective homes, or places of enlistment, when the war finally closed; it was absolutely unable to pay the army in full—much less the officers. Some idea of the extent of this difficulty may be formed from the fact that, although the foreign continent fared rather better, on the whole, than did the home volunteers, an especial effort having been made to pay them as nearly as possible all that was due them; yet, when the first general account of the total debt of the United States was stated, on the first day of January, 1790, there was found to be an indebtedness of $198,208.10, principal and interest, still due the foreign officers who had served in our army. But this great sum represented the principal and accrued interest of what was left of the total indebtedness, on this account, when the whole thing was assumed by the present form of our National Government; it did not necessarily represent the whole amount of obligations, in money, which the war left due to foreign officers, for some of that might have been paid by the several Colonies, or States, on their own accounts, and some of it might have been paid, under the Articles of Confederation, by the United States, for all that the records show. But that sum was still outstanding and unpaid when the present Constitution was adopted, when Washington became President and when the whole thing was assumed and paid by the United States. This sum simply represented the foreign officer-element in the general legacy of debt which the young Republic inherited from the struggles attending its birth. But it shows that our obligations on that account must have been considerable in the aggregate. At any rate, one of the officers who came over under a contract specifically naming the rank and compensation which should accompany his commission in the army was Maitre du Coudray. The contract which he presented was signed by Beaumarchais as the agent, in France, of the United Colonies; and it stipulated that du Coudray should be a general of artillery and receive the emoluments and perquisites of that rank. But, when he arrived and presented his contract, it was next to impossible for the authorities to honor its terms and recognize the binding force of the agreement.

General Knox (one of Washington's best generals and most trusted officers, as well as his first Secretary of War after he became President), was in command of the artillery, and Washington was unwilling to have him superceded by any one, much less by a raw recruit, ignorant of our country, language and people; for it would have been detrimental to the prosperity of the army and it would have worked a discourtesy, if not an indignity, upon a worthy and most capable officer. As Washington was opposed to having Gen. Knox displaced, and there was no other way of honoring the terms of the contract, the matter was referred to Congress for adjudication. But Congress, not knowing just how to get out of the embarrassment, adopted a course of dilly-dally and delay by putting the final settlement of the question off, from time to time, in the hope that something might happen to render its settlement less difficult. Pending decisive action, however, du Coudray consented to occupy a subordinate rank until his exact status could be authoritatively determined. There is no telling what might have been the ultimate outcome of the apparent conflict between a delicate sense of national courtesy and honorable duty, on the one hand, and the practical dictates of exigency and expediency on the other, if an unforeseen accident had not come to Uncle Sam's rescue. But Fate contrived, just at this critical juncture, to relieve the gravity of the situation and open up a way out of its embarrassment; for, while the long dreaded and long deferred final adjustment of the embarrassing complication was being thus held in abeyance by an amicable arrangement effected through the courtesy of Maitre de Coudray himself, and while Congress was utterly at sea as to how it was ever going to do even and exact justice to all of the equities involved, without making some sacrifice which the Colonies could ill afford at that time, Maitre du Coudray was accidently drowned while crossing the Schuylkill river.

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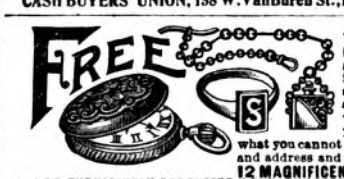
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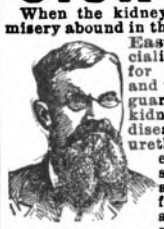
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THE VAN NESS MANSION.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



WHEN, in 1791, the location of the city of Washington was finally decided upon, and the plans of the future capital of our nation were drawn up by Major Charles Pierre L'Enfant, the ground which it was destined to occupy was mainly owned by four men, Daniel Carroll, Notley Young, David Burns and Samuel Davidson. Of these four the only one with whom our narrative has to deal is David or Davie Burns, an obstinate, contumacious old Scotchman who lived in a tiny house containing two rooms and a garret, and which, until quite recently, stood a little to the southwest of the White House and the Corcoran Art Gallery.

At the time when negotiations were commenced with Burns for the sale of a part of his land for the use of the future city, he was a poor man, owning little except his plantation. This comprised about six hundred acres and extended as far as the Patent Office and where the National Postoffice now stands. Although the plans for the city had been carefully made, so that neither his house nor the land immediately surrounding it should be disturbed, Burns was exceedingly unwilling to part with his land, and grudged every acre claimed by the commissioners, notwithstanding the fact that he was well paid for it all.

Finally Washington wished to purchase from him, for a public reservation, the ground now known as Lafayette Park; but to all his persuasions and arguments Davie turned a deaf ear. At length, losing patience, Washington exclaimed:

"Had not the Federal city been laid out here you would have died a poor tobacco planter."

"Aye, mon," retorted Burns, "an' had you not married the widow Custis, wi' her nagurs, you would hae been a land surveyor to-day, an' a mighty poor ane at that."

It is said that Washington, at this reply, completely lost his temper and quitted the house, and would never again meet the old Scotchman; but ultimately the obstinate old man gave way to the pleadings of the commissioners, and the coveted piece of land was secured to the city.

David Burns' estate came to him through a long Scotch ancestry, and we can hardly blame him for being unwilling to relinquish his patrimonial acres. He had been married, and had, at this time, one little daughter, Marcia, who was the delight of his life. His wife had died when Marcia was very young, and he immediately took advantage of his newly acquired wealth to give his darling the best education which the times would allow. For himself, he never altered his simple style of living, but remained to the end of his days in the rudely fashioned cottage where the new city found him. But Marcia was sent to Baltimore, into a cultivated family, where she remained several years. When she returned to Washington, a most beautiful young lady, she at once became the belle of society, and the rude little cot became the haunt of the most desirable young men in the city. Dashing young Members of Congress, gay fortune hunters, gallants of every kind, picked their way across the marshes to sue for the favor of the young heiress, but her father would have none of them, and they were promptly dismissed by him with cutting words.

But at length General John P. Van Ness, Member of Congress from New York, young, popular and handsome, won his way into the citadel of the old Scotchman's heart, and married his daughter. David Burns died not long after the marriage, leaving all his vast wealth to his only child, who still continued to make her home in the old cottage. At last, when their only child, a daughter, was about returning home from the school in Philadelphia where she had been educated, General Van Ness and his wife thought it time to have a better home to hold so fair a jewel as their daughter, and accordingly built the magnificent mansion which is still known as "The Van Ness House," and



THE VAN NESS MANSION.

which in those early days was regarded as a marvel of richness and elegance. With its wonderful carvings, its sculptured mantels of Italian marble, its finish of costly woods, its doors covered with Spanish ornamentation, and its handsome furnishings, it was the admiration of all; while its lavish hospitality and its magnificent entertainments caused it to be known far and near. Standing, as it does, at the foot of Seventeenth Street, it commands an extended view far up and down the river and across into Virginia; Alexandria and Georgetown, then both large and prosperous cities, were in full view, while the Potomac which flowed past, directly in front of the grounds, was alive with shipping going to or from these two ports.

For a time the inhabitants of this beautiful dwelling were happy in the possession of wealth, popularity and of each other. But the daughter soon married a young man from South Carolina named Arthur Middleton; and in one little year from that time she lay dead with her tiny baby on her breast. Then came to Marcia Van Ness sad days. No longer did she care for society, for mirth or for gaiety, but spent her time in doing good to others. She did not, as so many have done in similar times of trial, nurse her grief selfishly; but, instead, she lavished her love, her time and her wealth on the orphaned children of the city, and the Washington Orphan Asylum stands to-day, a living witness to the devotion of this bereaved mother to the unfortunate little ones deprived of a mother's care. Her father's old cottage had always been preserved by her, and now it became her haven of rest, where she went for help and comfort when her loss pressed heavily upon her, and where no eye but that of her Heavenly Father, whose aid she sought, ever intruded upon her meditations.

But at last, when she had only rounded out half a century of usefulness, the death angel came to bear her above, and after a long illness, and much suffering patiently borne, she departed to join her dear ones.

Her husband erected a magnificent mausoleum to her memory, fashioned after the pattern of the Temple of Vesta, and costing $34,000 and in it he placed her remains and those of her father and mother. It was then located in an enclosure on H. Street near Ninth Street, and close to the Orphan Asylum which she had founded and endowed; but as the city grew the space which it occupied was needed for buildings, and the mausoleum was removed to Oak Grove Cemetery, Georgetown, where it still stands, one of the wonders of that beautiful "City of the Dead."

General Van Ness lived to be seventy-five years old. He entertained royally, and every year Congress was his guest. After his death the property passed into the hands of heirs who divided it amicably among themselves. The cottage has disappeared through decay and neglect, and the beautiful old mansion is fast following it through the same causes. For several years the place was used as a beer garden; then it was rented to colored people, and bore a most unsavory reputation; and now the house and grounds are owned by an athletic association, and the public are rigidly excluded from the grounds. The house is no longer used or kept in repair, and will soon be a thing of the past. "Sic transit gloria mundi."

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30	Kathleen Mavoureen.	673	A Boy's Best Friend.	1202	Irish Jubilee.
77	My old Kentucky Home.	712	Ship that never returned.	1240	Picture turned to the Wall.
84	I'll be all smiles to-night.	713	Why dig Ma's Grave.	1249	Sentenced to Death.
95	Gipsy's Warning.	717	Some Day I'll wander back.	1260	Pardon came too late.
107	Back to Old Virginny.	748	Texas Ranger.	1278	Takes a Girl to do it.
113	Two Orphans.	761	Dying Girl's Message.	1287	Push dem Clouds away.
171	Drunkard's Lone Child.	806	Photograph of Mother.	1290	The Broken Home.
172	Tenting Old Camp Ground.	920	Letter that never came.	1298	Man in the Moon.
222	Sherman's March to the Sea.	928	Save my Mother's Picture.	1304	In Old Madrid.
242	Farmer's Daughter.	938	Dad's Dinner Pail.	1311	He never cares to Wander.
254	I left Ireland.	952	Dying Cowboys Lament.	1327	Still the World goes on.
302	Butcher Boy.	972	Package of Old Letters.	1336	Kiss and Let's make up.
313	Old Oaken Bucket.	988	Lost on the "Lady Elgin."	1344	When Summer Comes.
331	Remember the Poor Tramp.	1000	Song that reached my Heart.	1346	Volunteer Organist.
338	Answer to Gipseys Warning.	1014	Jesse James.	1349	The Widow's Plea.
409	Boys keep away from Girls.	1070	I felt it in The Dark.	1361	Fallen by the Wayside.
422	I had but 50 cents.	1074	Ten Thousand Miles Away.	1374	The Fatal Wedding.
454	Drunkard's Dream.	1107	Whistling Coon.	1380	The Little Lost Child.
465	Arkansaw Traveller.	1114	Johnstown Flood.	1392	I'll take you Home.
477	Evening by the Moonlight.	1127	Three Leaves of Shamrock.	1397	The Pride of the Ball.
1406	While Dance goes on.				
1413	No Place like Old Home				
1414	I don't want to Play.				
1421	I long to see Old Home.				
1434	The Church across the Way.				
1458	One Girl in the World for me.				
1459	Denied a Home.				
1460	After your Wandering.				
1462	I'll never go out with Riley.				
1466	She may've seen Better Days.				
1471	My Dad's the Engineer.				
1484	I never Loved till I met You.				
1488	If They would only Write.				
1494	Denny Murphy's Daughter.				
1497	You are my Sweetheart.				
1498	Better than Gold.				
1500	Let Me take My Place again.				
1504	Malone forgot He was Dead.				
1514	Pictures from Life.				
1524	A Girl in the World for us all.				
1540	A Hot Time in the Old Town.				
1561	I love Her just the Same.				
1563	The Mother of the Girl I Love.				
1568	Back to the only Girl I Love.				
1581	Doris the Village Maiden.				

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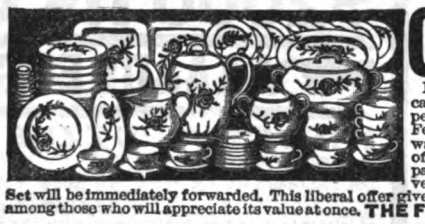
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GOLDEN MOMENTS, Augusta, Maine.



TALKS WITH GIRLS.

CONDUCTED BY
COUSIN MARION.

Well, cousins, how have you passed the first month of the new year? Does 1900 seem to you to be very much different from the other years you have known? I imagine not, but I hope before the year is over that each and every one of you will have found it the best year of your lives and that it will be so because you have used your best endeavors to make it so. It is that, dear cousins, which makes the years better, and you must remember it always in everything you do. Now, let us see what you have to talk to me about.

The first is "Doubtful" of Belle Plains, Iowa, and she wants to know what to do with a young man who calls regularly awhile and then irregularly, and never says when he will come again or whether he will ever come again. The answer is easy. That kind of a young man is to be treated with indifference and every now and then when he calls, the young lady should have an engagement with some other young man. And most of all stop giving him a thought; he isn't worth it.

Inquisitive Nelly, Battle Creek, Mich.—(1) You may or not invite your escort in when he brings you home, provided it is not after ten o'clock. (2) You can get a book on the subject at any bookstore. (3) Genius will show itself before the age of fifteen. Go right on doing the best you can and if you have genius of any kind everybody will know it.

Beulah, Rhinelander, Wis.—The simpler the subject you have for your class essay, the better, and anything you know the most about will do. In writing a Class Prophecy make it as ridiculous as possible by getting it as far from the truth as possible.

Verletta Van, Boise, Idaho.—Yes, it is an insult to a lady for a man to attempt any familiarity with her. (2) Love is not to be won; it comes freely or not at all.

Mary M., Sioux Falls, S. D.—There is no cure for a nose that gets red when it gets cold, except to keep it warm. Did you ever see a nose that wouldn't get red when it is cold? Aren't you worried over nothing?

I. B. C., Watsonville, Cal.—It is difficult to find work to do at home that will pay. Thousands are trying to find it and only a very few succeed. Don't pay money for anything till you know what you are going to get.

Goldcake, Freeport, Ill.—Do not use hair dye to change the color the Lord gave your hair. (2) No cure. (3) No, a youth of sixteen who doesn't know his multiplication table has no business going to see a girl of twenty-three—unless she is his school teacher and he wants to learn arithmetic.

Rosy Lee, Glenview, Ky.—Your question is unanswerable as there are no data on the subject.

O. and B., Washington, D. C.—Better be friendly with the family of the young man to whom you are engaged. (2) Address the letter to the person and the company and regiment and send it to the War Dep't. Washington. (3) The young man may do as he pleases about giving you his photograph. Make him return yours. (4) No, all red headed people are not deceitful—that is, not more deceitful than the other kind. (5) See answer above to "Doubtful". (6) You may go driving during the day with a man.

Sweet Sixteen, St. Joseph, Mo.—Girls of sixteen have not arrived at the "beau" age and that makes all the things you ask about improper. Talk these things over with your Sunday School teacher.

N. B. C., Campbellsburg, Ky.—Actresses do not wear masks to make themselves beautiful. They paint, that is all. (2) Advertise your parlor organ in the local newspaper.

Dora, Wilkes Barre, Pa.—The lady may take her own time to answer a note from a man, whether it comes by messenger or not. Ordinarily she should answer as promptly as possible. The man pays for the messenger, unless he is called by the lady.

Tommy and Nell, Villa Grove, Ill.—(1 and 2) No. (3) Young ladies should not answer advertisements for correspondence. (4) Don't marry the jealous and selfish man if there is any other man to marry—and there always is. (5) I think railroad men, "especially baggage masters," are about as trustworthy as the average man. (6) Sometimes the marriage of a Protestant and a Catholic is very happy, but it is risky. (7) If she is engaged to him she may kiss him good by. Not otherwise. (8) Of course, tell your friend, man or woman, all about the new frocks you have got. (9) A lady may send a gentleman flowers, but it is usually the other way. (10) Nobody exactly knows why a fast young man is more attractive than the slow kind, but he always is—more's the pity. (11) Stay in church till the services are over. (12) A young man who will go from Virginia to Illinois to see his sweetheart must have serious intentions. Hasn't he popped the question yet? (13) Ask your mother why you should not send the kodak picture you mention. (14) You may meet the young man in the city if you have a chaperone. (15) Don't flirt with your sweetheart. It is dishonorable and dishonest.

Rose Bud, Boyd, Texas—Truly, dear cousin, with so susceptible a heart as yours I do not see how you can avoid being in trouble. Suppose you marry the young man in the show business and travel with him. That will keep your mind off of yourself.

Phyllis, Baltimore County, Md.—A year is plenty long enough for an engagement.

H. and S., Roann, Ind.—Snub the youth that is too stupid to talk. (2) Have as little as possible to do with people who make engagements and do not keep them. It is only another form of lying.

Violet, Augusta, Va.—Ask the young man for the lock of hair. (2) Paper is not an edible, therefore do not eat it. It is made of cord word, old rags and other things not found on the table. (3) Don't wave at the trainmen. (4) You can wear any colors if you don't have any of them too pronounced.

Gervaiss, Harpster, Idaho.—You should lead the way into your own house. (2) Begin eating at a hotel when your order comes, if you want it hot. (3) Your escort leads the way in a hotel dining room, and you put your gloves in your pocket if you want to. (4) Ask the lady's permission before introducing a man. (5) Congratulations are in order immediately after the ceremony if the wedding occurs in the house, and the bridesmaid leads.

Lampasas, Texas—Miss Helen Gould is a brunette, about the average height, between twenty-five and thirty, and she lives in New York City.

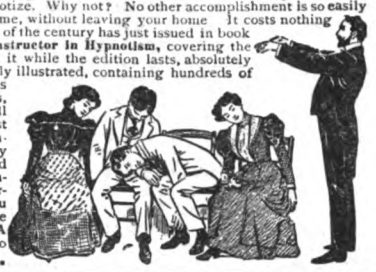
Now, dears, all your questions are answered, and I will say by by till the cold winds of March come, but don't let the chill ever get into your warm, young hearts and make your world a cheerless place.

COUSIN MARION.



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Reader, do you desire to become a Hypnotist? Do you want to know how to utilize the most powerful and mysterious force of nature? Do you value control over others? Do you value the means of securing friendship, love and personal influence? Do you value the power to conquer pain and banish sickness, to reform a misguided friend, to gain business success, to win wealth, position and happiness? If you do, you must learn to Hypnotize. Why not? No other accomplishment is so easily acquired. It can be mastered in a few hours time, without leaving your home. It costs nothing to find out all about it. The greatest Hypnotist of the century has just issued in book form a large and exhaustive **TREATISE, or Instructor in Hypnotism,** covering the whole ground of his Science, and he will send it while the edition lasts, absolutely **FREE TO ALL** who apply. The book is profusely illustrated, containing hundreds of beautiful and artistic engravings, and shows as never was done before the principles, features, wonders and uses of this mysterious Science, all in a popular and pleasing style. It tells you just what Hypnotism is, and what you may accomplish with it. It shows you how you may sway the minds of others, perform astounding feats and produce amusement by the hour. New and instantaneous methods. Success absolutely guaranteed. Remember, this grand work costs you nothing. It benefits everybody who reads it. It places you in touch with the wonder-science of the age. Read it anyhow. It is absolutely **FREE.** A postal card will bring it by return mail, all charges paid. Apply at once to



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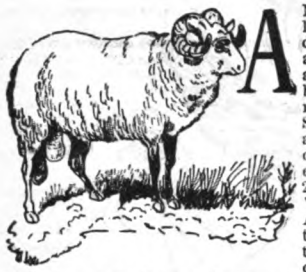
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CONDUCTED BY REGULUS.



ANOTHER Astrological Year has dropped into the abyss of the past and Mother Earth begins a new journey around the Sun this year at about half-past 8 o'clock in the evening of the 20th day of March, Washington Time. At that moment the last degrees of the celestial sign of the BALANCE will ascend with Scorpio occupying the most of the ascending house. Venus and Mars, rulers of the ascending signs, are, therefore, taken as joint rulers of the scheme erected for the time. Those two planets are benevolently beholding each other and mutually assisting each other for good. The Moon, co-significator of the people of the country, is in the ascendant and has the good rays of Mars a joint ruler. Venus, ruler of the sign ascending, angular and powerful in her own sign, presignifies general prosperity, health and gladness of the people and a fruitful condition of the earth.

JUPITER, the GREAT BENEFIC, is dignified and in the House of the Nation's treasure giving additional testimony of the financial prosperity of the government, marked increase of public revenues and general good fortune in a financial sense. True, Mars bears somewhat unfavorably upon Jupiter, which indicates some heavy expenditures for war purposes, some pronounced antagonists among the people against consolidations of capital in the shape of trusts, and the probable loss of some government property, ship, or buildings by fire or violence of the elements.

Mercury retrograde and having the square of Saturn indicates some unusual agitation in Congress on questions involving the Postal service of the nation and the public revenue from the same. Scientific and literary men meet with some unusual difficulties and the obituary of the Spring Quarter will contain the names of some quite eminent men in science and literature. One highly learned in the law and another high in church councils goes to "that bourne from whence no traveler returns." Some serious cases of dishonesty among postal employees are unearthed and the Postal service loses some one among its highest officers. The money market is in a rather feverish state and fluctuations of stocks are likely to be quick, especially near the time of this ingress and along about the 8th, 14th, and 17th of April. Mars in the 5th house, cautions those in charge of theaters and places of amusement as well as seaside resorts and hotels to have unusual care that fire is not allowed to prove disastrous. It is apprehended that the fire losses for the quarter will be somewhat in excess of the average.

Saturn dignified and in north Latitude is said to signify that the air for the quarter will be temperate and healthy. Jupiter in Sagittarius is said to presignify a temperate air in the beginning of winter but unusual cold at the end of winter. We may, therefore, look for colder ranges of temperature in the first days of March with abundant downfall of rain and snow, as Mars is at the quarter round in Pisces.

Lung and liver troubles are to be particularly guarded against during this spring quarter also quite a prevalence of affections to the head and eyes. In these respects our Chief Executive is invited to have more than usual care.

CELESTIAL CALENDAR FOR MARCH, 1900.

MARCH. 1—Thursday. The early hours are not chosen for any important work; but as the day advances let best attention be given to all classes of literary engagements, matters of account and record, mail and newspaper work, correspondence, mathematical and scientific labors, and travel; be sure not to use the early forenoon for applications.

2—Friday. Begin this day early on the lines laid down for the preceding day and crowd all efforts until 4 o'clock in the afternoon for furthering all engagements with the pen and with persons in the literary pursuits; let the forenoon be fully employed for all commercial transactions of consequence, but urge all matters early as they are likely to drag or be fruitless if continued far into afternoon; the latter half of the day is adverse for successful issue of dealings concerned with houses and lands when also it will be wise to avoid dealing with thy landlord and to suspend negotiations as to such commodities as coal, iron, petroleum, wood, lumber and grain.

3—Saturday. Urge general business vigorously during the forenoon, when have dealings with persons of prominence or wealth not concerned in public office; seek money accommodations, buy goods conservatively for trade, especially in the nature of woolens, silks, and clothing generally; hold the temper as the noon hours are passed.

4—Sunday. A favorable Sabbath day, encouraging lofty sentiment and elevating religious discourse; the later hours incline to recreation and amusement rather than sober contemplation.

5—Monday. Use this day for making applications for favor or advantage from public authorities, large corporate bodies, associations and organizations and from all persons in authority over thee; postpone correspondence for the evening and be very chary of initiating any literary venture of consequence during the next 24 hours; the intellectual classes will be adversely disturbed and matters of contract, account, and correspondence will seem to drag in a peculiar manner; be cautious what writings are signed and see that no deceit is practiced upon thee for a season.

6—Tuesday. Indifferent in the forenoon, but as the day advances let all honorable undertakings be urged to the utmost; when also let all routine matters of contract, commercial and financial be conducted, and correspondence and travel be done as the afternoon progresses.

7—Wednesday. Look sharp here or the purse will suffer serious depletions or losses; speculation is peculiarly hazardous, as values are likely to be suddenly changeable and flighty; these suggestions are peculiarly appropriate for persons born about the 1st of March, June and September, of past years; as conditions are conducive to serious shrinkages of property values in those lives and they are cautioned also to conserve the health as regards the liver and lungs; caution is likewise intended for this month to such persons in regard to losses from fire and explosion and there are likely to be some very destructive conflagrations involving extraordinary property losses; let all have care in handling combustibles and explosives; a marked antagonism seems to be engendered between mechanics and organized capital and this day contributes to its development; ecclesiastical affairs suffer detriment during these middle days of March and religious denominations meet adverse experiences; beware of entering upon any new venture at this time, especially if one that is outside of thy regular and legitimate avocation.

8—Thursday. Diligently improve the benefic influences which prevail on this day for all the elegant pursuits; in artistic and musical matters conditions favor happy progress and REGULUS advises his friends to crowd such engagements to the utmost; landscape work and the animal painting have very helpful influences; more than usual pleasure will be had from the social, musical or dramatical entertainment of the evening.

9—Friday. The forenoon is peculiarly unpropitious and bids thee postpone important writings and correspondence and all the major commercial enterprises until the afternoon hours; have no transactions pertaining to real estate; embarrassments and unusual annoyances are likely to come to editors, authors, booksellers, publishers, printers, mathematicians, surveyors, lawyers, and judges; especially if born about the 24th of March, 26th of June, or 24th of September or December, of past years; the afternoon is best for the pursuit of the ingenious and mechanical trades and for dealings with glassworkers, iron and brass founders, bakers, butchers, and the manufacturing classes.

10—Saturday. Urge general business on this day; seek favor from public officials and persons in authority in thy business associations.

11—Sunday. Not a favorable Sabbath day, especially for appreciation or enjoyment of the elegant in literature or art.

12—Monday. A day of excellent promise, inviting travel, business activity, and enterprise; have transactions relating to patents and trade-marks, also with banking institutions, trust companies, public treasurers and the financial officers of large corporations; buy goods to sell again and generally urge all important undertakings.

13—Tuesday. Sign no writings pertaining to mining matters nor have any transaction in houses or lands or agricultural products during the forenoon; the afternoon should have the preference for all dealings of consequence.

14—Wednesday. Give attention during the forenoon hours to matters concerned with real estate and its improvement or decoration; deal in house furnishings and urge the elegant occupations and polite arts; the landscape painter, architect, and horticulturalist are peculiarly favored here and dealers in drugs, tinctures, wines and cordials should use this forenoon for effecting their principal engagements; the dramatist and musician are also encouraged to be active in their enterprises during the early hours; the latter part of the day is peculiarly mischievous for financial matters, indicating losses from haste or impetuosity or through the fiery or destructive elements; let all have care as the night advances that no opportunity is allowed for fires from carelessness; combustion will be very ready during these middle days of the month and probably more than usually mischievous during the night hours between the 14th and 15th. Some unusual discord in church circles is indicated hereabouts and those in charge of church buildings should be particularly on the alert against loss from fire. The time is peculiarly evil in a financial sense for persons born about the 1st of March, June and September, of past years, and the majority of such persons are in danger of bad losses in business or embarrassing circumstances hinder best progress in the enterprises in which they are engaged; such persons should avoid speculation nor should they precipitate litigation in their affairs.

15—Thursday. Do not court or marry on this day nor should much progress be looked for in any of the elegant pursuits; social and musical entertainments are not favored for the evening.

16—Friday. The day is peculiarly evil for the inauguration of any matter of importance; avoid having any transaction pertaining to real estate and keep out of mines, wells, and all underground places and away from tottering walls and insecure scaffolding, especially if born about the 3rd of March, 2d of June, 5th of September or 6th of December, of past years; and those so born should have care of their persons if compelled to be about machinery, unruly animals, or where explosives are stored and should have best care of health as there is danger of serious trouble with lungs and liver.

17—Saturday. After the morning hours planetary conditions are much more promising than usual and encourage the vigorous prosecution of all honorable undertakings; buy goods for trade, adjust accounts, make collections and have financial transactions of consequence; do not, however, use the early forenoon for any of the important moves in the literary world.

18—Sunday. The mind is much concerned with religious matters and discourses will be earnest and eloquent; the evening is more contentious and out of harmony.

19—Monday. This day encourages dealings with the laboring classes and promotes advantage from transactions with plumbers, tinners, and building contractors; seek favor from thy landlord in the forenoon; do not use the evening for any social entertainment nor for important efforts in musical or dramatical undertakings.

20—Tuesday. Begin this day early and urge business with dealers in hardware, cutlery, firearms, metals, glassware, brass and iron work and chemical and electrical materials and apparatus and also with persons engaged in the ingenious and mechanical trades; the afternoon is not to be depended upon for good.

21—Wednesday. Have dealings on this day with public officers or the managing authorities or superintendents in great corporations or upon large public works; urge correspondence and literary matters generally; sign writings of all kinds; engage servants, travel, remove, and have engagements pertaining to finances and dealings with persons of wealth.

22—Thursday. Use the early hours for financial negotiations and for making collections; but have care as the noon is approached not to permit haste or precipitancy to mar the measure of thy success; in the afternoon and evening avoid all rashness of word or act and be not easily moved to wrath; the day is peculiarly dangerous for surgical operations and it is, at the same time, strangely conducive to classes of accidents such as require the aid of surgery; let all have care against permitting excitement to run away with temper or judgment.

23—Friday. The middle hours are the best in this day, in which the best efforts in business should be expended; but as the afternoon is passing there begins a range of adverse influences covering about 36 hours in which little encouragement is had for any very important moves in life. The latter part of this day is unpromising for the gentle sex and warns those who are matrimonially inclined to shun such engagements if their desire be for peace and happiness in the married state; scrutinize very carefully all business enterprises offering themselves in the latter part of the day and first half of the next; for no matter how flattering the promises, the outcome threatens to be very unfortunate; this is peculiarly true for persons claiming this as the anniversary of their birthday or who were born about the 26th of June, 23rd of September, or 27th of December, of past years.

24—Saturday. Strange occurrences will seem to baffle thine efforts during the early hours of this day, nor shouldst thou be disappointed if success does not crown thine efforts in any direction; sign no writings, do no correspondence, make no bargains concerning houses or lands nor make any attempt to gain favor or advantage from thy superior; do not be deceived by appearances nor representations in purchase of goods but satisfy thyself carefully that no hidden defects exist; purchases of goods for trade are much better deferred for a season.

25—Sunday. A day in which the musical portion of religious worship will be unusually happy and effective, though the afternoon is to be less commended than the early part of the day.

26—Monday. Begin this day with the sun and improve every moment; the merchant, tradesman, commercial traveler, and all engaged in literary pursuits or having employment concerning books are particularly favored. Let all classes of contracts affecting legal matters and money transactions and all important movements for intellectual improvement and educational interests be now made. Give preference to the afternoon for dealings with bankers, judges, and persons of wealth or prominence.

27—Tuesday. Undertake nothing of importance in the forenoon of this day, particularly in either the literary or artistic pursuits, when also defer thy purchases of wearing apparel until a more favorable time; the afternoon is more promising.

28—Wednesday. The first half of this day encourages association with the aged and the active pursuit of all general business, but preferences may be given to dealings in real estate, boots and shoes, dyes, wool, lead, coal, lumber and all classes of building materials; beware of any speculative deal in the afternoon when losses and financial set-backs are more likely to be the rule of the time; watch thine expenditures and live within thy means.

29—Thursday. An unpromising forenoon, cautioning avoidance of disputes and domestic infelicities, especially in nativities susceptible in this respect; seek no favor from railroad officials nor from persons high in public office; urge correspondence and the adjustment of literary matters in the afternoon.

30—Friday. The conditions of this forenoon do not encourage dealings with the laboring classes or with persons following trades dirty in their nature or that are concerned with the improvement of lands or mining properties; as the noon is passed, however, let every energy be put forth to forward all thine honorable undertakings; have money negotiations and open new places of business, also seek favor from persons in authority.

31—Saturday. The first half of the day is the best and should be fully improved; the afternoon is less promising.

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I have discovered a positive cure for all female diseases and the piles. It never fails to cure any of the various diseases peculiar to women, such as leucorrhœa, displacements, ulceration, granulation, etc., or the piles from any cause or in either sex. I will gladly mail a box of this wonderful medicine free to every sufferer. Mrs. C. B. MILLER, Box 106, Kokomo, Ind.

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GREAT PREMIUM OFFER.—If you will get up a club of 6 yearly trial subscribers to this paper at the special price of 25 cents each, we will send you one of these repairing outfits as a present to you.

COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

CURRENT TOPICS IN AMERICAN HISTORY.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



HEAVY were the hearts of all Americans when it was announced in the press dispatches that General Henry Lawton had fallen, shot by a rifleman in the thicket, while he was inspecting the firing line on his advance into the rebellious provinces in Luzon. Conspicuously attired in a yellow rain coat and white helmet, he was a mark for every sharpshooter; but no remonstrances were sufficiently strong to cause him to take any precautions for his own safety, and he seemed not to know the meaning of the word fear.

Thus while leading an expedition, every day of which was attended with great success, he was shot and instantly killed. His body was brought back to Manila, where his family were and carried with military honors to a returning American transport for transmission to America. In General Lawton's death the country has lost one of her most gallant and conspicuous soldiers. His career has been a notable one and he has won distinction for bravery and merit in three wars. Our readers will remember that this department contained a condensed sketch of his services and a portrait only a short time ago. The initial cut at the commencement of this article is from a photograph taken just as he was entering his last campaign.

A pleasant characteristic of the American people has been shown by his death. It became generally known immediately after that his family would be left in comparatively destitute circumstances and a movement spontaneously shaped itself in many parts of the country to give them material relief. The Secretary of War, Mr. Root, organized the forces and within a few days subscriptions to the amount of $50,000 which was the desired sum, had flowed into the proper depositories for the fund.

The American people are wonderfully charitable. Other people expect governmental reward, but it is characteristic of our countrymen to give subscriptions of money individually. Only a short time ago Sergeant "Bill" Anthony, the marine who reported the disaster to Capt. Sigsbee when the Maine was blown up in Havana harbor, became discouraged and suicided in one of the parks of New York City. It became known to the public immediately after that his family was without means of support, and at once the generous-souled Americans subscribed enough money to decently bury him and to comfortably support the family which he had left behind.

Immediately after Gen. Lawton's tragic death, Hon. John Barrett, formerly minister to Siam, at a dinner given by the New England Society in New York on December 22d read a letter from him written in November, saying that should he be shot down by a Filipino bullet it would really be the work of the American sympathizers, as the war would have been over months ago but for the sympathy a few Americans had extended the insurgents. This letter has caused a profound sensation. There have been several attempts to have the question considered by Congress.



ALL SOULS' CHURCH.

Meanwhile the war in the Philippines has degenerated into a pursuit of bands of guerillas. The successes are all on our side, but under the conditions there can be no great victories, or even battles. Aguinaldo is still fleeing, though almost all of his relatives are captives. A plot was laid for an uprising in Manila but it failed to materialize. It is probable that the war may last some time or its collapse may come at any time. Guerilla fighting is always an uncertain matter in time.

COMFORT recently reported the departure of Archbishop Chapelle, the papal delegate to the Philippines. It will be remembered that almost all the Filipinos are devout Roman Catholics and the government hopes for much assistance from the Archbishop in settling disturbing questions in the archipelago. He arrived in Manila January 2nd on the transport Sherman. The various brotherhoods of friars, which have held such immense influence in the islands are much disturbed as to the future and everything is being done to influence him and Father McKinnon, who accompanied him, either for or against the friars. Inasmuch as the question of the expulsion of the friars from the islands and the freedom of the people from the orders has always been declared to be the principal cause of the revolt of the natives against Spain's sovereignty, longtime residents of the islands declare if the priests are returned to their former parishes, the natives seeing them return under American administration, will surely attack and kill them and otherwise cause continued disorder.

While there is intense interest and much curiosity as to the intentions of the Roman church in the islands, it is a matter of interest to know that in America much will be done to send missionaries out to the natives by the Protestant denominations. Naturally the Catholics have never allowed religious toleration in the islands, and for the first time another branch of Christian belief gains a foothold among the natives. The first step is to be the building of All Souls' church in Manila.

The Rev. John Krachen Pearce is to be the pastor, and the church is to be undenominational, unsectarian and is intended as a welcome home for any Christian. The pastor is to pay for the completed edifice from his private funds and it is estimated to cost $150,000 when completed. The slate roof is from Bangor, Me. and interior furnishings from Boston, but the steel frame and stone are to be prepared in the islands. After the church is completed Dr. Pearce will build a club house for Athletics.

England has declared flour a contraband of war and her warships have seized several cargoes in American and German ships, evidently on their way to the Transvaal republic. This action being unprecedented in war has occasioned much comment in diplomatic circles. The flour being American has caused our Government to properly protest. Germany has done so in a yet more forcible way and it looks as if international complications might arise over this British construction of International law. It is not likely, however, that this country will do anything to embarrass England in the struggle going on in South Africa, although the Continental powers would like to intervene if possible, and especially if such intervention would humiliate Great Britain.

Just after our own Civil war a Fenian brotherhood of Irishmen prepared to invade Canada. There was a strong feeling between the countries at the time, growing out of England's attitude during the great struggle between the states. Apparently there was to be a great army cross the border and drills were known to be going on. Soldiers were prepared on both sides of the line; but in the end the invasion failed to materialize and became a joke for all. Recently, for a few mornings, the press teemed with dispatches promising a similar invasion; but so little attention was paid that the subject fell flat. It is supposed this was inspired to frighten Canadian authorities from sending any more soldiers to the Boer war.

The magnanimity of the American government has again been most strikingly illustrated by its decision relative to the repatriation of Spaniards which was made public during the holidays. In the treaty of peace the United States agreed to procure the release of Spanish prisoners in the Philippines and to return them home. Various terms were employed in the different parts of the agreement to designate the classes of persons entitled to a free passage from the Philippines; thus they are spoken of as "Spanish soldiers," "Spanish prisoners," "prisoners in the hands of the insurgents," etc. The decision is of the broadest character and allows not only actual soldier prisoners but also every Spaniard, who by the exigencies of war was compelled to remain within the insurgent lines, this great privilege. While the number is far greater than the signatories contemplated, the American people will willingly pay the bill, believing that the effects of such generosity will go far towards healing the scars of war.

Much has been said and written of our policy in China and of the attitude we should take in our dealings with other nations interested in the Far East. The negotiations opened by Secretary Hay with the great powers of Europe and with the Japanese Empire relative to a common understanding of what is called the open door policy throughout China, seem to have met with unqualified success. As it is the intention of the President to make the question the subject of a special message to Congress, it is not possible to obtain full particulars at the present time, but enough has been given out to the public for all to know that Great Britain, Russia, France, Germany and Japan have all answered favorably to the American suggestion. Only one country, Italy, failed to respond but it is believed she will do as the others have indicated. Should this plan be carried out all countries would have equal rights in trade in China, no matter what other country actually possessed the port.

Among the very notable events of last month was the dining of 20,000 people at a Christmas feast in Madison Square Garden by the Salvation Army of New York City. Besides this great feast over five thousand basket dinners were sent to poor families. Such deeds show how alive the real spirit of Christianity is among our people to-day.

The condition of American interests in Cuba remains about the same. Major-General Brooke, who has been governor of the island since its evacuation by the Spanish, has been recalled, and it is said will be placed in command of one of the western departments in this country. He has been an efficient governor, but some of his acts have been severely criticised and it is stated that his recall was decidedly unpleasant to him. The President has appointed General Leonard Wood, who has so successfully governed at Santiago, as provisional governor of Cuba. To do this it was necessary to appoint him major-general in the army which was done immediately on the assembling of Congress. It is believed that General Wood has the entire confidence of the Cubans, and the progressive methods and tact which he has displayed in the subordinate position at Santiago give full promise of a distinguished career in regenerating Havana and Cuba.



MAJOR-GENERAL BROOKE.

Among the sadder bits of news for the month has been the breaking down in health of Hon. Chas. A. Boutelle, representative in Congress from the 4th Maine district. Suffering from a complication of diseases, his mind has been somewhat clouded and it has been necessary to withdraw him from public life and place him in a sanitarium for treatment. He has had a very distinguished career in public life, and has been noted as a stalwart fighter on the floors of Congress. He has served for nearly twenty years, and at the present time is on several of the most important committees, being chairman of the committee on naval affairs which practically has control of the American Navy. His illness is remarkable from the fact that the Maine delegation in Congress served together for many years, and by their long service commanded a strength possessed by not even such large states as New York and Pennsylvania. Two years ago, one member, Mr. Milliken, died. This was followed by the death of Nelson Dingley, one of the most distinguished statesmen of his time, representing the second district; and immediately after, Hon. Thomas B. Reed, Speaker of the last House of Representatives, withdrew from public life, resigning his seat in Congress. If the present illness of Capt. Boutelle should entirely incapacitate him, the entire Maine delegation in the lower house will have changed within two years. This delegation has often been held up to the public to show how much the system of keeping trained men who prove faithful in Congress would accomplish; and, as above suggested, notwithstanding the small number of representatives, their training, ability and coherence have given them a strength in the nation entirely disproportionate to their numbers or the state they represented.

It is a notable thing that this Maine system of reward for good services has trained Maine men into being among the greatest statesmen in America; and only two years ago the Speaker of the House of Representatives, which is the second most important office in the country, the Chief Justice of the United States, and the Vice President pro tem. of the Senate, were all Maine men. In one of the sessions of Congress, during the '70s, when Mr. Blaine was Speaker of the House of Representatives, out of a membership of approximately three hundred men, over ten per cent. of the members of the House were born in the state of Maine, a fact which Mr. Blaine said was so remarkable that its equal was not presented in American history.



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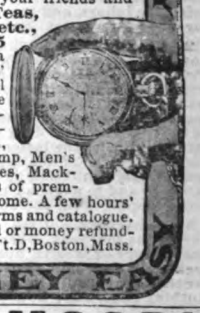


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MARCH 1900

PRICE 5 CENTS

VOL XII NO. 5 MN 137

COMFORT

THE KEY TO A MILLION AND A QUARTER HOMES

NEW YORK AUGUSTA, MAINE. BOSTON

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MARCH

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
N.M. 1/30	F.Q. 8	F.M. 16	L.Q. 24	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31



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The following conditions govern the awarding of cash prizes for Nutshell Stories, and the manuscripts of such writers only as have complied with all these requirements will receive consideration.

All the necessary particulars being here clearly set forth, it will be useless for anyone to seek further information or personal favors by addressing the editor, as such letters cannot be answered.

1. *Only persons who are regular paid up yearly subscribers to "Comfort" and who send with every manuscript at least two yearly subscribers (together with 50 cents to pay for each subscriber so sent) may compete for the prizes.*

2. *All contributions must have the number of words they contain plainly noted thereon in addition to the writer's full name and address with nom de plume if desired; must be written on one side of the paper only, enclosed in the same envelope as the letter and remittance for new subscriptions, and addressed to* EDITOR NUTSHELL STORY CLUB *care of* COMFORT, AUGUSTA, MAINE.

3. *All stories must be* strictly original *with the contributors, and must not have appeared in print before. Competitors may write upon any subject, whether based upon fact, fancy or action—of adventure, love, war, peace; of city or country life, or of experiences on land or sea—but no story must contain more than* 2,000 *or less than* 1,000 *words.*

4. NO MANUSCRIPT WILL BE RETURNED UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES AND COMPETITORS SHOULD THEREFORE RETAIN A COPY OF WHAT THEY SEND.

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The Publishers of "Comfort" reserve the right to purchase at their established rates any stories submitted under the foregoing offer, which failed to secure a prize.

☞ *Writers who hear nothing of their manuscript may at the end of* 90 *days after submitting them to "Comfort" feel at liberty to offer their stories for sale elsewhere.*

PRIZE WINNERS FOR MARCH.

Minnie W. Williams, First Prize.
F. E. Burnham, Second Prize.
E. B. Wilson, Third Prize.
Burton McPhail, Fourth Prize.
Annie Braaher, Fifth Prize.

THE INSANE PHOTOGRAPHS.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY MINNIE W. WILLIAMS.

Copyright, 1900, by W. H. Gannett, Publisher.



"GOOD morning, Uncle Ben. I have succeeded at last. You know I told you that there is a kind of light in the sunshine that we can't see, and——"

"Good morning, Richard. I have succeeded at last, myself. You know I told you if you didn't stop spending money and get to work I would disown you. I made up my mind last night, and day after tomorrow Addlesby will be up to alter my will. I give you till then to get your traps out of the house. As sure as your name is Richard Hovey you'll get to work then."

The younger man drew back a little as he understood that the threat he had often heard but never believed in had at last materialized. His face hardened and he nodded sharply and turned on his heel. At first his steps led toward the house, but under the influence of an idea he turned out of the front gate, walked rapidly down the street and entered a cosy-looking house on the door of which appeared a small sign, Albert Barlow, M. D.

The doctor was in his office, and after an exchange of courtesies with his visitor, which proved them well acquainted if not friends, Hovey made known the object of his errand.

"What are the requirements of the law regarding incarceration for insanity?" he asked, dropping almost immediately into business.

"Certificate of two reputable physicians," replied the M. D. "Why? Who is it?"

"My uncle."

"You don't say!"

"Isn't a trial necessary?"

"They have a hearing before the probate judge, of course, and the court must be convinced. Most weight is given the opinion of the physicians, though. What are your uncle's symptoms?"

"What would you say of a man who took a walk in the bright sunshine without a stitch of clothing on him, and an open umbrella without a cover carried carefully over his head?"

"That he was insane without a doubt. Has your uncle done that?"

"Would you have to see it to believe it, or would photographs convince you?"

"I don't know about the photographs. I would have to see them first."

"I will see you again, Doctor,—perhaps this evening."

"Won't you give me any more of the details?"

"Everything, next time I see you, Doctor. Good day!"

Hovey walked back to his uncle's house briskly, and an evil light shone in his eyes, which yet also shone with some trace of humor. The uncle had other reasons for disinheriting his nephew beyond those given. He would not work—in the sense of seeking employment—because he thought there was no necessity for it when "the old man" had so much superfluous wealth. The real grievance was that he had fallen into evil ways, and was associated with a loose set of men whose gambling bouts were the least of their vices.

Yet despite his failings, Richard Hovey was a genius, and much of his time was spent in a disused part of the house which he had fitted up as a workshop. Thither he now repaired, and a few minutes later might have been seen, coat off and sleeves rolled up working in the light of a ruby lantern. A large camera lay on a table and from this he extracted a peculiar looking opaque lens which he inserted in an ordinary portable magazine camera. Then from a large sheet of cardboard painted with some glistening substance he cut a square and placed it in position in front of the lens.

"No," he said, communing with himself, "it had better go behind the lens, inside the camera, and out of the sunlight," and he suited the action to the word. Finally he removed the roll of film and replaced it with another which had been lying in a bell-jar under the action of some gas.

A park abutted on the block of houses of which Benjamin Hovey's was one, and in this park it was Mr. Hovey's habit to promenade twice a day. He was now stalking slowly along, his portly figure bent forward, and a worried frown on his face. Over one shoulder he bore a large silk umbrella, and in the free hand a cubical leather covered box, done in red Morocco leather, and bound with parallel strips of Russia iron. The box contained his private papers which he had been examining in the park.

Behind the fringe of shrubbery he might have seen his ingenious nephew tip-toeing along with his camera, taking snap shots at every favorable opportunity. As he used the last end of film he chuckled to himself: "That leather box couldn't be better. It will look like a bird cage."

The dinner hour passed. Mr. Hovey wondered if his nephew would have the effrontery to come to dinner, and hoped he would not. There was no danger of it; safe in his dark room the inventor was developing his pictures, and as they flashed up he uttered shrieks of delight. To look over his shoulder one would have seen view after view of a portly gentleman clad in nothing but a long flowing beard, walking with ponderous step along the driveway. In the background were the fountain, grottoes, and the brick summer house, which served to identify the locality. Over his shoulder the nude figure carried an umbrella with ribs extended, but without a vestige of cover. From two fingers of one hand, suspended by its ring, hung a square object which looked just as the inventor had predicted, like a bird cage.

Several of these pictures young Mr. Hovey rejected, muttering once, "That would give the whole snap away." These he left on a shelf just over the sink, while he proceeded to print and mount the ones that he had chosen as best suited to his purpose. With a half dozen of these he hurried down to Dr. Barlow's, and finding the physician still at home, displayed them and asked if they were enough to satisfy him of the elder Hovey's insanity.

Barlow examined the pictures with great interest and admitted unhesitatingly that there could be no doubt of the case. Yes, he would be willing to sign a certificate, and would appear before the probate judge if necessary—indeed would be glad to, as insane cases were always interesting.

Elated at his first success, the plotter sought out a second neighboring physician named Cole. Dr. Cole exhibited great interest in the pictures, but he began to ask awkward questions. "You say these were taken in the early morning?" he inquired suspiciously, examining the shadows with care. Hovey repeated his assertion that it was early morning, before any one was astir in the park.

"He's carrying his watch and chain—and that looks like a bunch of keys just over his hip; see, they are visible in every picture!"

Hovey simulated great surprise, but explained the presence of these articles by supposing that his uncle, actuated by an insane freak, had tied them in place with string which they could not see. Dr. Cole dropped his head into his hand and began to think. He was something of a scientific experimenter besides being a successful physician, and some strange ideas began to flit through his brain.

The other broke in impatiently. "Well, are you willing to certify to his insanity?" he demanded.

"I have not yet seen the patient," answered the doctor.

"And you won't certify without seeing him? Well, sir, in that case I will not trouble you further. Good day," and Hovey gathered his curious photographs and took his departure.

"What do you think of that?" Dr. Cole asked himself as the door closed. "If I didn't know you, Mr. Hovey, I would think it very unusual. But since I do know of you and your ways, and your relations with your uncle, suspicion reaches well nigh to a certainty. I think I understand your little photographs, and while I don't sympathize with your game, I must admit that you have made a wonderful scientific discovery. I wonder if I can't get some evidence to checkmate the schemer."

Richard Hovey was by this time well on his way in search of another physician. This time he experienced no trouble, and armed with the two certificates hurried to the court house. As it chanced he arrived after the hour of adjournment.

About midnight a man might have been seen to steal through the gloom across the grounds surrounding the Hovey mansion. He tried several of the windows in that part of the house where the workshop lay. One of these opened to his touch and he climbed in. His first act was to find the dark-room and light the ruby lantern, and the glow on his face showed him to be Dr. Cole. Immediately before him lay the negatives from which the pictures had been printed and these he examined in detail. Next he found the camera with its curious lens and screen, and these he studied with many repressed exclamations of wonder and admiration. Finally, continuing the search, he found the rejected negatives. Success at last! Hovey had rejected all his pictures that contained any other figures besides his uncle, and for the very good reason that these other figures were all naked too. Every picture that the doctor held up to the light contained besides the nude image of the elder Hovey, one or more persons in an equally insane state of undress!

The doctor slipped the negatives into a pocket and hurriedly escaped by the window through which he had made his burglarious entrance.

Mid-morning of the next day an officer, armed with an order to bring in the body of Benjamin Hovey, visited the residence and presented him, handcuffed as became a raving maniac, before the probate judge. The old gentleman was paralyzed with wonder and rage, but amazement was complete when his nephew, stating himself to be the nearest relative, requested the court to adjudge him insane and commit him to an asylum for treatment and safe-keeping. The certificate of the physicians was presented. The court asked for more specific evidence. Young Mr. Hovey told how his uncle was in the habit of parading about, clothesless and with the bare ribs of an umbrella outspread, and exhibited the photographs in corroboration.

The old gentleman sat through it all without saying a word, but there certainly was an insane look on his face. The veins on his forehead swelled instant by instant, and the red hue of his face changed to purple.

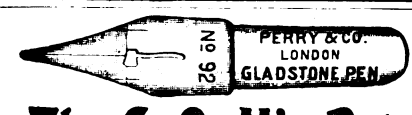
Just then the younger Hovey uttered a wild curse. A new comer had entered the court room. It was Dr. Cole, and in his hand he carried a number of photographs. "Your honor," he said, "I wish to be sworn as a witness. * * * In order to make myself clear I will have to explain that the X-rays are not obtained alone by electrical means, but that the sunshine itself contains these rays and other forms of radiation differing only slightly from them. Mr. Richard Hovey, nephew of the defendant, has made a momentous scientific discovery. He has discovered a means of screening or sifting the sunlight so as to select any kind of light he may want. With a camera arranged to take up the light which passes through all dry organic matter—like wool, cotton, silk and leather—he took numerous photographs of his uncle during a recent noon-day walk in the park. In support of this assertion I will exhibit some of the photographs which I have here. He has shown only those in which his uncle appeared. I will show those in which his uncle and other promenaders appeared, all equally bereft of clothing!" As he finished speaking, the doctor passed up the photographs.

There was a cry and young Hovey made a rush to capture the pictures. An officer caught him and jerked him back. Then he turned on his uncle. "What right have you to be, I want to know! Didn't I invent you? What right have you to was—to were—what right to has been? Ha—ha—ha! Everything spins and I spin—was spinning—will was be—ha—ha—ha!"

The elder Hovey had forgotten his unutterable rage and looked at his raving nephew in fright. Of the two doctors who had signed the certificate, one leaned over and tapped the other on the shoulder. "We made a mistake in the first name of the patient," he said; "we will have to change it."

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SAVED BY DEATH.

A TRUE STORY.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY F. E. BURNHAM.

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THE CANNON Ball Express rolled into the terminal station on schedule time at midnight, December 22, 1887, the fireman with his hand on the throttle, George Hastings, the engineer, missing.

John Brant, the fireman, was in a state bordering on nervous collapse when he stumbled out of the engine, and being unable to talk coherently, the conductor of the train came forward and told what he knew of the remarkable disappearance of the engineer a hundred miles out.

"We were running ahead of time," said the conductor, "passing a milestone every sixty seconds. Suddenly the air-brakes were applied and the engine reversed, and in less than thirty seconds the train had come to a stop. Brant was in much the state that he is now.

"'George has fallen out of the engine,' said he, when I came up to the engine.

"We all took our lanterns and went back over the road and searched for fifteen minutes, but there was not a trace of Hastings to be found. If the earth had opened and swallowed him, he could not have disappeared more completely."

Weeks passed and nothing was heard or seen of the missing engineer. It was suggested that he had received an injury to his brain and that he had wandered away, unable to bring himself in touch with the world. Others, however, advanced the thought that the fireman knew more of the engineer's disappearance than he chose to tell. The police were of this opinion and a detective was put on the scent.

Detective Sargeant was the man assigned to the case and it was not long before he had learned much of John Brant's history, and the more he learned of it the greater was his bewilderment. Up to the moment that the engineer and fireman stepped into the cab that memorable night in December, the two men were apparently the best of friends. What reason was there for supposing that Brant had laid violent hands upon the engineer? And holding that he had done so, what opportunity had the fireman to make away with the engineer's body?

Fried Onions.

Indirectly Caused the Death of the World's Greatest General.

It is a matter of history that Napoleon was a gourmand, an inordinate lover of the good things of the table, and history further records that his favorite dish was fried onions; his death from cancer of stomach it is claimed also was probably caused from his excessive indulgence of this fondness for the odorous vegetable.

The onion is undoubtedly a wholesome article of food, in fact has many medicinal qualities of value, but it would be difficult to find a more indigestible article than fried onions, and to many people they are simply poison, but the onion does not stand alone in this respect. Any article of food that is not thoroughly digested becomes a source of disease and discomfort whether it be fried onions or beef steak.

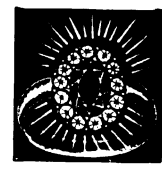
The reason why any wholesome food is not promptly digested is because the stomach lacks some important element of digestion; some stomachs lack peptone, others are deficient in gastric juice, still others lack Hydro chloric acid.

The one thing necessary to do in any case of poor digestion is to supply those elements of digestion which the stomach lacks, and nothing does this so thoroughly and safely as Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets.

Dr. Richardson in writing a thesis on treatment of dyspepsia and indigestion, closes his remarks by saying, "for those suffering from acid dyspepsia, shown by sour, watery risings, or for flatulent dyspepsia shown by gas on stomach, causing heart trouble and difficult breathing, as well as for all other forms of stomach trouble, the safest treatment is to take one or two of Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets after each meal. I advise them because they contain no harmful drugs, but are composed of valuable digestives, which act promptly upon the food eaten. I never knew a case of indigestion or even chronic dyspepsia which Stuart's Tablets would not reach."

Cheap cathartic medicines claiming to cure dyspepsia and indigestion can have no effect whatever in actively digesting the food and to call any cathartic medicine a cure for indigestion is a misnomer.

Every druggist in the United States and Canada sells Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets, and they are not only the safest and most successful but the most scientific of any treatment for indigestion and stomach troubles.



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These questions troubled the detective and for a time remained unanswered.

Brant was still in the employ of the road, acting as fireman on the engine he had fired for years; the engineer, a man who had been advanced upon Hastings' disappearance. This engineer Detective Sargeant took into his confidence, and a suspicion which had crossed his mind he laid before him, a theory which caused Philip Ingalls to stare at the detective in horror and amazement.

One evening in the spring of the year, some four months after the disappearance of Hastings, the Cannon Ball Express started on its regular trip east. In the cab besides the fireman and engineer was a gentleman who knew a great deal about John Brant, yet of whom Brant knew nothing, the engineer merely introducing him as a friend who was anxious to make the trip on the engine.

The express was thundering along at a high rate of speed, a cloud of dust, smoke and cinders hovering about the train. The heat within the cab was terrific when the door to the firebox was open, which was most of the time. The engineer's hand was on the throttle, the detective (for as you have undoubtedly already guessed, the stranger was none other than he) standing directly behind him.

Suddenly the fireman dropped his shovel and staggered backward toward the tender. At the same instant a voice seemed to issue from the seething firebox, an agonized cry that wailed above the roar of the express.

"John! John!"

The detective sprang to the fireman's side, seized him by the arm and dragged him before the open door to the firebox.

"See! See!" he shouted, "a face, a face, do you not see it in the flames, man?"

Again the uncanny cry issued from the fierce fire. Every drop of blood receded from Brant's face leaving it ashen. The next instant he had swooned.

Having moved the prostrate form to one side, Engineer Ingalls bade the detective take his seat and keep a sharp watch while he took the fireman's place.

"Sir," said the detective, addressing the engineer while Brant was still unconscious, "that man killed Hastings and threw his body into the firebox. When as a ventriloquist I threw my voice into the fire and it seemed to him that one from the dead was beseeching him from the flames, his expression of horror and alarm was such as to have been capable of convincing the most skeptical. I have made no mistake. John Brant is the guilty man."

When the Cannon Ball Express arrived at its destination the detective, followed by the engineer, led the fireman to the room of the superintendent, who, though the hour was midnight, in accordance with the detective's wish was yet in his office.

"John Brant," said the detective, locking the door, "John Brant, you killed George Hastings and burned his body in the firebox of the engine."

For an instant the fireman stood before the men, his breath coming in gasps, the sweat standing out on his forehead in great drops.

"Yes, yes, I did kill him," cried Brant at last, "I killed him,—but it was to save my train and the express we pass at the siding at Franklin."

"Be seated, Mr. Brant," said the superintendent, speaking kindly.

As the fireman took the proffered chair he drew a folded paper from his pocket.

"That night," said the fireman, "Hastings had been acting strangely from the time he stepped into the cab. Muttered something about the road not using him 'white', and that that night he was going to square things before he reached the city. At first I paid little attention to his talk. Finally, however, I noticed that he was urging the engine faster than was customary, and I asked him what he was trying to do.

"'Do you see this map?' said Hastings, pointing to this piece of paper which he took from his pocket, 'here is where we are now, John. Twenty miles ahead, here at this point is the Franklin siding, where we usually pass the express. I am going to pass the siding ahead of time to-night, John. The express will be coming as usual and we shall meet it somewhere between these two points, meet it, and then, then I shall be square with those who are trying to down me, John.'"

Speechless with astonishment the superintendent, detective and engineer stared at the fireman as he continued with his story.

"Then I understood that Hastings was indeed mad," said the fireman, passing his hand across his brow. "I attempted to reason with him, but nothing seemed to move him in the least. We were fast approaching the express and if I was to act I must act quickly. Hastings' eyes were fastened to the gleaming rails. I saw my opportunity and seized it. The shovel was in my hands, and before he was aware of my intention, I felled him with it. Like a log he dropped at my feet. I closed the throttle, applied the brakes, and the next instant reversed the engine. All this took less than ten seconds. One glance told me that Hastings was dead; I had struck him harder than I had intended, and there he was dead at my feet and I had murdered him.

"In an instant it flashed upon me that nothing stood between me and conviction on the charge of murder. The train was coming to a stop and inside of half a minute the train hands would be by the engine. Then in a moment of weakness, sirs, I thought to hide the crime, forgetting that the disappearance of Hastings would have to be accounted for. The door to the firebox was open and within was a terrible fire burning under the forced draft. Taking Hastings in my arms, I threw him upon the fire, closing the door to hide the horrible sight. Scarcely was the act accomplished when the train stopped and the hands ran ahead to the engine. Some story had to be told to satisfy the men and I told the first thing that came to mind—that Hastings had fallen out of the cab. Immediately a search was instituted and while this was going on, Hastings' body was burned to ashes."

Every word that the man uttered bore the stamp of truth and when the fireman had ceased speaking all three men sprang forward, grasping Brant's hands.

"Not a murderer, but a hero!" said the superintendent, laying his hand on the fireman's shoulder.

A few weeks later a vacancy was made on one of the through trains, the engineer being discharged for some infraction of the company's rules. Several trusted engineers sent in applications for promotion to his position, but already had the company made a choice. John Brant was the man named for the position and he is holding it to-day, one of the few men on the engineer's seat who have no black marks opposite their names.

INFANTICIDE.

HOW CHILDREN ARE SENT TO DESTRUCTION.

Now and then some city paper contains the story of a case of child murder, which revolts and appalls the reader. The mother hugs her own darling close to her breast as she thinks of that little, white, cold body, with the marks of fiendish fingers on the throat. She kisses her baby passionately with all her life in her lips, ready to be spent for the helpless nursling she loves.

And yet just such a mother as this, devoted, tender, loving, may be responsible for a case of infanticide as pitiful as that other, though less terrible than it. These cases of child destruction are just as true, just as palpable to



science as if the mother had launched the boat to carry her child over the cataract to destruction.

WHAT MATERNITY MEANS,

is considered by women generally with relation to themselves rather than to their offspring. They do not stop to think that their physical and mental condition will stamp the coming infant, and that that infant's life will be a lifelong echo of the mother's moods and feelings during the pre-natal period. The mother owes it to the child to take care of herself. She should be comfortable in body and composed in mind. She should be free from nervousness and pain. She should eat well, sleep well and enjoy life without a moment's dread or anxiety for the future.

The majority of women would cry out that such a condition is impossible for them. They always suffer in the months of waiting. They always have nausea and headache. They are always fretful and nervous, and dread the time of travail which is to come. And the average woman thinks of these conditions as the debt which her sex must pay to Nature. But these conditions are unnatural. These aches, pains and sufferings are due to womanly diseases, and these diseases can be cured, and are being cured every day in the year.

"I am twenty-seven years old," writes Mrs. Euphemia Falconer, of Trent, Muskegon Co., Mich.; "I have been married ten years. I am the mother of four children. My first two babies were still-born, and I suffered everything but death. My friends all thought I could never recover. I was reduced to 109 pounds. When I was three months along for my third child I was taken with hemorrhage or flooding, and came near having a mishap from female weakness. For two months I was under the care of our doctor, but was getting weaker all the time until one day I happened to come across one of your little books, and I read it through, and the next day I sent and got three bottles of 'Favorite Prescription' and one bottle of 'Pellets.' I improved so fast I continued to take your medicine until baby was born, and he is healthy and all right. He is four years old. My baby girl is two years old. My health has been good ever since. I now weigh 165 pounds."

WONDERFUL BUT TRUE.

The cures of womanly diseases performed by Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription are wonderful but true. It is wonderful that a woman who had not borne a living child should bear two healthy children as the result of the use of "Favorite Prescription." It is wonderful that from "suffering everything but death" at the birth hour a woman should find her time of travail made practically painless when "Favorite Prescription" had been taken in preparation for the event. It is wonderful that a condition of weakness and emaciation should be changed to a condition of health and heartiness, the greatness of that change being best expressed by the figures showing the increase in weight from 109 to 165 pounds. No figures could show the gain in happiness which comes with such a cure.

"Words can't express how grateful I am for your kind advice and good medicines," writes Mrs. Ada Brooks, of Kirbyville, Taney Co., Missouri. "I suffered for four years with what four physicians pronounced ulceration and prolapsus. Also inflammation of bladder and urethra. My case was chronic and complicated. When my first child was born (five years ago), I was in a very bad condition, suffering from bladder trouble. My health had been very poor for some time when I was taken down bed-fast. I was in a critical condition for five months. Had several good physicians, but kept getting worse. Could not bear to be moved from my bed. I kept getting worse all the time. Had been confined to my bed five months when I wrote to you. I received your reply very soon and then dismissed my physician and began taking Dr. Pierce's medicines. I took eight bottles of his 'Favorite Prescription' and 'Golden Medical Discovery,' and I began to get better at once. In two months I could sit up in a chair and kept getting better. In four months could do all my house work, including washing and sewing. I think your medicines saved me from the grave, and I will recommend them to all suffering women. Several of my lady friends are taking your medicines with good effect."

DON'T STAY SICK.

There is nothing so useless as the unnecessary suffering of women from diseases peculiar to their sex. These diseases are absolutely and altogether curable by the use of Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription. If there is irregularity of the periods the "Prescription" regulates them. If there are debilitating drains, they are dried up by the "Prescription." If there is inflammation or ulceration "Favorite Prescription" cures it, and just as surely cures female weakness, bearing down pains and other forms of feminine disorders.

That bare statement of plain facts fails to do the subject justice.

When it is barely said, "a woman has been cured of female weakness by the use of Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription," such a statement conveys no hint of the form rounding out into graceful curves; of the cheeks full and touched with the red tint of healthy blood; of the eyes bright and sparkling; of the whole body strong and healthy so that work is a blessing instead of a burden. Yet all these things do come to women cured of disease by the use of "Favorite Prescription."

Women suffering from disease in chronic form are invited to consult Dr. Pierce, by letter, *free*. All correspondence is held in strictest privacy and treated as a sacred confidence.

For more than thirty years Dr. R. V. Pierce has been chief consulting physician to the Invalids' Hotel and Surgical Institute, Buffalo, N. Y. In that time aided by his medical staff of nearly a score of physicians, he has treated and cured over half a million women. There is no other offer of free consultation by letter made by a specialist in the treatment and cure of women's diseases, such as is Dr. R. V. Pierce. Women who have found other advice and treatment ineffective should not fail to write to Dr. R. V. Pierce, Buffalo, N. Y.

"Favorite Prescription" contains no alcohol and is entirely free from opium, cocaine and all other narcotics.

The dealer who offers a substitute medicine as "just as good" as Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription, cares less for the health of his customer than for the extra profit made on the sale of preparations of less merit. Insist on having the "Prescription" which has cured so many other women.

IS YOUR LIFE WORTH 21 PENNIES?

Just 21 pennies invested in one-cent stamps will pay the expense of mailing Dr. Pierce's great work, the Common Sense Medical Adviser. This book contains 1008 pages and over 700 illustrations. Its advice may save the life of wife, husband, or child in some crisis of disease. There is no charge for the book. It is sent absolutely free to any address on receipt of stamps to pay expense of mailing *only*. Send 21 one-cent stamps for the volume bound in paper covers, or 31 stamps for the book bound in cloth. Address Dr. R. V. Pierce, Buffalo, N. Y.

THE PASSING OF POKER JACK.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY E. E. WILSON.

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"IS IT you, Dick? And you are one of us? Raise my head a little so that I can see your face. That's right—now I can see it. Yes, you are the same old Dick, only a little older. Dear old fellow, it's good to have you with me at this time—to have my hand in yours once again. You'll stay with me 'til the end comes, won't you, Dick? Don't scold, please. Yes, I knew you'd not leave me, but I wanted to hear you say it—it'll be easier for me to go, having you with me.

"And what's the news from the front?—have we won? What's that?—you say the Spaniards are in retreat, and the hill is ours? And is the flag waving there? Hurrah for that! Raise me higher, old fellow, so that I can see it, (Ah-h-h! that Mauser did its work well, my strength's almost gone. No, don't curse the man that did it; he only did his duty, and I—and I welcome the death his bullet brought me.) Ah, there they are, the flags! Dick, it's a glorious sight! It's queer, the reverence one has for those bits of starry cloth. The boys'll keep them there, won't they, Dick? Yes, I knew they would; that's the kind of men they are. Now lay me back on the ground—I'm tired; my life is going fast and I want to talk of other things.

"You ask why I want to die? That is what I want to tell you about, and your question carries me right to where I must begin—back to the time when you and I were partners—wild young devils—down there in Mexico. Dick, you knew her—Dolores, my wife, I mean. Hush! don't say a word; I know you loved her too, and it would have been far better had she loved you instead of me. Poor old fellow! I remember as though it were but yesterday how you paled and trembled when I told you that she had promised to marry me; and how you left me without a word, to see me no more until now. Forgive me, Dick, the pain I gave you then; until that moment I did not know that you loved her. (Raise my head a little, old man. There, that is easier.) Dick, what was I to win her love?—the love of the purest, sweetest woman that ever lived. A gambler—everything that is bad; an adventurer—a man without a name or home. Yet she did love me, God bless her! preferring me to the scores of lovers of her own people that flocked about her.

"How the people stared when we were married! even the priest seemed to wonder how one so beautiful and high-born, one so spotless and pure as she could mate with me—with Poker Jack, the gambler. (You turn away; am I tiring you, old fellow? No? Then I will tell you the rest.) But we cared nothing for what others thought; we thought only of one another; and wishing to be undisturbed in our happiness, we went to live at Los Ojos, an estate of hers far back in the foothills of the Sierra Madre—I wanted to buy a home nearer to civilization, but she would not let me use my money, telling me that, won at cards, it was accursed; and so I gave it all to the Sisters. You smile? Dick, you don't know the hold a pure, good wife has on a man, especially if he loves her as I loved Dolores. Such love is a holy thing, and it purified me, driving out of me all that was bad. Why, Dick, without an effort I gave up cards—everything of my old life; and I learned her religion—learned to pray! Just think of that, Dick; *Poker Jack praying, and in earnest!*

"For three years, back there in the wild foothills, with only the servants and ranch hands, we lived a life of perfect happiness—a dream of love and joy; and then our child was born. Born to die within the week, poor little fellow! He had her eyes, Dick! And what a blow that was—I thought it would kill Dolores! (Lift up my shoulders a little; I am choking.)

"Just then, before she had entirely recovered her strength—you know how ill-timed some things come, Dick—fires blazing on the mountain tops flashed along the Sierras the message: 'The Apaches are raiding; defend yourselves!' You know what that meant; a whirlwind of fire and blood—a war of extermination, when even the most cowardly fight to the last breath. Hurriedly the widely scattered ranchers gathered at Los Ojos to consult concerning the defense of the lives of their families; the soldiers were all far away, and we had to depend upon ourselves. It was decided that we should be the first to strike—to surprise the Indians if possible; and I was chosen leader.

"When I told Dolores that I must leave her

she heard without a protest—without a word to weaken me; but I will never forget how she looked, holding me tight in her arms, and gazing with her great dark eyes into mine. Ah! Dick, women are far nobler, braver than men think them! It was much easier for me to leave her, to brave the dangers and hardships of the campaign, than for her to see me go. We started that morning. Two days later we were overtaken by a handsome young fellow, a Mexican, who brought me a letter from my wife. He was her cousin, Carlos Montez by name, just from the South, she wrote; he wished to go with us to help in driving back the Indians, and she placed him in my care. We were glad to have him, I particularly so, for he had the face and eyes of Dolores, and something of her voice. (Give me another pull at your canteen, old man, I am growing feverish.)

"The next day we struck the Apache trail, and following it, we came upon the Indians that night. Instantly we attacked, surprising the red devils while they slept, and though the fight was a hot one and sometimes in doubt, we ended by giving them a complete thrashing. They scattered into the mountains, but only to come together again—you know what it is to fight Apaches, it's like catching a flea. A week afterward we struck the band again, and in the fight that followed, I would have lost my life but for Carlos; stunned by a glancing bullet, I lay directly in the Apache fire, and he, unmindful of the bullets, rushed to where I lay and carried me to cover behind the rocks. This time we gave the Indians a stunning blow, scattering them for good; and with light hearts, we turned our faces homeward.

"When within a few miles of Los Ojos my horse cast a shoe, going lame, and in spite of my burning impatience to get on, I was compelled to go slowly; but Carlos galloped on ahead. It was night when I at last arrived; and as I sprang to the ground, I was met by a servant, an old man, tried and true I thought him, who whispered that he had seen a handsome young man steal into my wife's room a few minutes before. (May he roast forever in hell for the slander.) Quick as a flash I struck him full in the face, knocking him down; but the harm was done. Like an angry bull, blindly, furiously, I rushed into the house and on to my wife's room; and coming out of her door I met Carlos. Seeing me his face paled, and he drew back in alarm; but he was too slow. Before he could escape I had thrown myself upon him, clutching him by the throat; and with a savage lunge I drove my knife into his heart.

"Oh, God! If I were to live a thousand years, Dick, always would ring in my ears the cry of agony that burst from those dying lips: "'*Dear husband, it is I, Dolores, your wife.*'"

"I knew you would shiver and turn from me in horror, Dick—God knows I don't blame you—but stay a few minutes longer and hear it all. Death is very near to me now: already the chill is stealing over me. For pity's sake stay with me until the end, old fellow.

"She lived long enough to tell me that she forgave me, and that she loved me still; then died. And I—my mind gave way, Dick, and when my reason returned I found myself hundreds of miles away, in Arizona. In the long years that have dragged by since then I have dared every danger of the frontier: Indians, outlaws, floods, the desert's thirst—everything, seeking death; and at last, here in Cuba I—find—my—rest. Hold me—closer—old—man—I am—going—now. Are the flags still—waving—on—the—hill? *Dolores, querida mia*—"

He was dead!

HAZING A FRESHMAN.

A TRUE STORY.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY BURTON MCPHAIL.

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CURTIS was finding it decidedly u p-h i l l work fighting his way through college on what he could earn during vacation. The studies were sufficient to worry most of the men, but Curtis was continually harassed by cold and hunger, to say nothing of his college bill and stationer's account. It was no wonder that each week he was growing thinner and paler, a troubled look forever haunting his face.

The rest of the men knew something of the terrible struggle and would have helped Curtis, but the brave fellow's pride forbade advances on their part.

"Something has got to be done for Hal, or he won't be here many more weeks," said Bert Van Reuter, addressing several college men who had gathered in his room one evening. "I called to see him last evening and found him satisfying the inner man with crackers and water; I tell you, boys, I didn't enjoy my supper a bit for thinking of Hal and his crackers."

"Is it as bad as that?" asked Frank Murray. "I knew he was having a hard time, but that's too much; why, boys, Hal is starving."

"Yes, bad as that, and worse," replied Van Reuter. "There wasn't a spark of fire in his room, the frost an eighth of an inch thick on his window, and he was trying to keep warm with a blanket wrapped about him. 'You had better keep your coat on, Bert,' he said in his pathetic way, 'the fire's a bit low,' and he tried to make believe he was not eating supper, but just a lunch. I understood, boys, though I said nothing."

"But what can we do?" asked Murray. "Hal is proud and would not accept a cent from any of us."

For a moment Van Reuter looked perplexed.

"I know," he said at length, "let's haze him!"

"Haze him!" ejaculated the young men in chorus.

"Yes, haze him, boys," replied Van Reuter, "pretend to; take him out in a blanket some night and carry him to some room, lock him in, and while he is away carpet his room, put a quarter of a ton of coal in his coal box, fill up his wood box, leave twenty weeks' meal-tickets on his table, get the books and stationery he needs, and settle his account with the college. It will take considerable money to do all this, but if we all put our shoulders to the wheel it can be done. There are a hundred men who can easily give three dollars apiece, and fifty who can hand out a V. It will be the best kind of a hazing and I guess the faculty will offer no objections."

That very evening Van Reuter received permission from the faculty and with a list headed by a contribution of five dollars from the president of the college and each of those gathered in Van Reuter's room, he went from room to room receiving amounts varying from fifty cents to five dollars. It was the kind of a hazing that interested every man in the college and those who were able to give were not slow in responding. And when two days later all the men had been seen, Van Reuter held six hundred and forty dollars with which to carry out the proposed hazing.

Curtis was shivering in his room, endeavoring to master a perplexing problem. Somehow this night his thoughts were of home. He wondered if the old folks suspected the truth concerning him. There, no doubt, a cheery fire brightened the home; here, frost curtained the window and the dismal wail of the wind made more desolate the college-room.

"There is no use in trying to hold out much longer," he was saying. "I can't meet my bills and——"

"We're after you, Curtis," said Bert Van Reuter, throwing open the door, dispensing with the ceremony of knocking; "come on boys, I've got hold of him; get your blanket ready.

"Sorry to disturb you, Hal," said Van Reuter, placing his hand over Curtis' mouth, "but you can't get through college without being hazed, and we've come for you."

Curtis tried hard to smile, though it was a ghastly sort of an effort. He wondered when his trials would end; had he not enough to contend with already? He was charitable enough, however, to believe that none of the men would have attempted the hazing had they known just how matters stood with him.

Into the blanket they bundled Curtis, and tying the four corners together they started out of the room, bearing their burden through the long corridors, down the steps and across the campus to an empty room which had been heated for the occasion; and there they left the bewildered fellow, loosing the ends of the blanket and locking him in the room.

"Now, boys, for some work," said Van Reuter, as they came away; "the first thing to do is to fill Hal's coal box, and if it isn't big enough we must get another, but get the coal that was dumped in the yard up to his room, we must. Murray, go to my room and get that box of books I bought at Amee's, and Moulton, go with him and bring along the carpet we bought, and don't forget the tacks; they are on the table. Prescott and I will be attending to the coal and wood."

Over the long flights of stairs the two young men traveled, bearing the baskets of coal. It was hard work—work they were unused to, but they liked it nevertheless, for somehow they could almost see Curtis standing in the middle of his room, looking with astonished and delighted eyes on the changes wrought in his absence. It was evident that the box was built precisely for a quarter of a ton of coal, for when the last basketful was turned in, it was just rounding-full. Then the wood was piled into the wood-box and that which they were unable to store therein, they piled in the corner of the closet.

"Now out with the table and chairs, boys," said Van Reuter, addressing the young men who had arrived with the books and carpet, "and we will have the carpet down in short order; I will be sweeping out the dirt we have brought in."

Other men who had completed their studies for the evening and certain ones who had not done so, were on hand watching operations, ready to lend a hand if it were needed.

Willing hands make short work, and it was not many minutes before Van Reuter and Murray were down on their knees driving in the tacks at a merry tempo, Moulton and Prescott meanwhile opening the box of books and arranging them on the table, which as soon as the carpet had been laid was returned to the room.

"There," said Van Reuter, straightening up, "bring the chairs back, boys, and start a roaring fire in the stove, and we'll be ready for Hal; the meal-tickets, receipts from the college and the money that was left I'm going to leave here on the table where he will see it first thing when he enters, and if he doesn't shut his door too quick, we will have the richest treat of the year.

"It's too bad the room opposite couldn't have been heated to-night," continued Van Reuter, "but as it is not, we will have to stand the cold, but being empty, it will hold more of us, boys, and there's some consolation in that. I'll go and unlock Curtis now; be sure you are all in there when he arrives, though I shall try desperately to reach here ahead of him."

Out across the campus Van Reuter hastened, anxious to see the crowning moment of this unique hazing.

"Come out, Hal," said Van Reuter, throwing open the door that held Curtis a prisoner, "we decided to let you off easy, seeing that you gave us no trouble."

Without pausing for Curtis to make reply, Van Reuter hastened away, fearing lest Curtis should hurry back to his own room, giving him no opportunity to reach the room where the rest of the students were waiting to enjoy the climax of the plot. And it was well he did so, for Curtis the instant he was liberated, donning his great coat, which Murray had thoughtfully brought when they bore Curtis thither in the blanket, started for his room, quickening his steps as he encountered the sharp wind.

As Curtis crossed the avenue, he saw several pieces of kindling wood, which had evidently fallen from some passing team, and with a feeling akin to joy he gathered them into his arms, looking hastily around to see if any of the college boys had observed him. It meant a warm room for an hour or so, and his eyes brightened.

"The boys did me a good turn without knowing it," he said as he hurried on, "I shall be warm before going to bed, and that is something out of the ordinary."

Van Reuter had scarcely arrived when Curtis was heard on the stairs, his heavy step being easily recognized.

"He's coming," whispered Murray, "be quiet, boys!"

Down the corridor came Curtis, carrying the kindlings in his arm. Arriving at his door, he threw it open and entered. Suddenly he stopped short, dropping the kindlings in the middle of the floor.

"Excuse me!" he said hastily gathering up the wood, "I—I thought this was my room!"

On the opposite side of the corridor forty young men were holding onto their sides and stuffing their handkerchiefs into their mouths.

Closing the door behind him, Curtis retreated from his room, pausing before the door on the right and looking sharply at the number.

"Boys," whispered Murray from his position where he could look over the transom, "boys, he's at Stuart's room, trying to make out the number."

"It's my number, all right," said Curtis, returning to his own door, "but—but," he hesitated, "it isn't my room."

It was cold standing there and his teeth chattered.

"I—I don't understand it," he said, placing the kindlings on the floor and passing his hand across his head in a bewildered sort of a way. "I'll knock and perhaps whoever it is that rooms here will set things right."

Timidly rapping, Curtis waited for a moment, but no response coming from within, he knocked so loudly that the building echoed.

"I guess that will bring him," he said, grimly. "Passing strange!" he said, "my number!"

Suddenly he turned the knob to the door, hesitated for an instant, and then walked in.

The light from the stove door cast a flickering glow over the objects in the room, and as the poor fellow saw the familiar furniture, light seemed to break upon him, and a look of intense joy and gratitude swept over his troubled face.

The door to the room where the students were gathered had been noiselessly opened, and they all stood there watching Curtis' every movement. They were not laughing now, somehow they saw the pathetic side of the situation, and more than one found a lump rising in his throat.

And then Curtis dropped into a chair before the fire, a speechless heap of humanity.

Somehow as the young men stood there it dawned upon them that that was not the place for them, and they sought to escape.

Curtis heard the movement and sprang to his feet, advancing bravely to meet them.

"Boys," said he, his voice trembling, "boys, I can't say much to you to-night; I guess you won't expect it; I can only say that I thank you."

"You had better carry these kindlings into your closet, Hal," said Van Reuter.

And as Curtis crossed his room, the students disappeared down the corridor, leaving Curtis alone.

It was late that night before Curtis realized all that had been done for him, the envelope containing the meal-tickets and the balance of the money, lying unnoticed upon the table; it was late and the morning's lessons were untouched, but the professors passed lightly over his failures that day.

A Young Lawyer's Preference.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY ANNIE BRASHER.

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HE was sitting under a huge chestnut tree near the little cabin schoolhouse on the hill. The sounds of the children's laughter as they played at the spring down the path came to her ear, giving form to her reverie. Looking up she saw a horseman descending a hill a mile and a half away. She recognized him as Joel Guines and her thoughts were turned into another channel. His was a character to suggest speculation. Born in a cabin on the mountain, poor and illiterate, with indomitable energy he had worked his way through the school at Linden, the county-seat, then taught in the country to acquire means with which to attend the law school of Tennessee at Lebanon.

He was now a lawyer with a fair practice and an ambition which looked to the legislature. Contact with the world had rubbed off some of his angularities of character and provincialism of manner, but the veneer of polish had never been applied to his moral nature. He was ashamed of his family and of his poverty. Every feeling was subservient to his ambition and his vanity. Watching his descent the young teacher thought of the story whispered abroad that this young aspirant for office could only win by paying a unique price. A rich old hayseed farmer, ex-legislator and political wire-puller had for years controlled the republican and third-party vote of the district; to hope to succeed in either party was to gain his influence. He was quite a Warwick in a small way. Upon this young man, the old politician's only child, a plain, yellow-faced woman of middle life, had set her fancy. By marrying her he could be elected. She would bring him a river farm and a few thousand dollars in cash. The force of character and energy which he had displayed had excited the interest of the young teacher, and she was wondering if his ambition would pay such a price for its gratification, when she saw him leave the main road and come up the hill to the schoolhouse.

As he dismounted and tied his horse to a tree,

Find Your True Level

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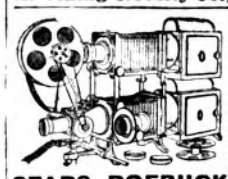
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for selling only six of our **Electric Porous Plasters.** We want to prove there is a sure prevention and cure for **Lame Back, La Grippe, Coughs, Colds, Pneumonia, Rheumatism,** etc. etc., and will send you six of our 25c. Plasters which you are to sell and return the **money** ($1.50) to us and we will send you all charges paid, the **elegant Shaving Set** packed in a case eight inches long, six inches wide and five inches high. The combination consists of 1 Royal Steel Swedish Razor, single value, $3.00; 1 Genuine, Horsehide, Double, Reversible, Canvass-back, Nickle-hung, Ebonized handle Razor Strop, value $1.00; 1 Real China Shaving Mug; 1 Cake Star Shaving Soap; 1 Best Bristle, large handle Lather Brush; 1 Cake Perfumed Lump Magnesia; 1 Stick rich perfumed Cosmetic, making a grand $5.00 combination. **Every man** should have an outfit in the house for emergency's use. **Every Woman** should see to it that either her **Father,** her **Husband,** her **Brother** or her **Sweetheart** has one of these outfits. They make the best presents one can give to a gentleman.

Don't wait but send to-day for Plasters. One agent sold the six in six minutes. Address

THE G. O. PLASTER CO., Box 1229, Augusta, Maine.

she noticed an expression of suppressed excitement and great nervousness of manner.

"I was going by here to Flatwoods and I thought I'd bring your mail, Miss Pauline," he said, handing her several letters. She thanked him, then was impelled to look up by the intense gaze which she felt was fixed upon her face.

"Miss Pauline," he said, seating himself upon a bench in front of her, "I heard in Linden that you would leave Perry County to-morrow for good; is it so?"

"Quite true," she answered, "I have finished my work here. The children will have their spelling match and recite their speeches after recess, then I shall dismiss them forever."

He nervously twirled his hands. "I knew it had to be some time, but I wasn't expecting it so soon."

His manner puzzled her. His eyes were fixed moodily upon the ground. Sighing deeply he said:

"God knows I wish you had never come here; that I had never set eyes on your face!"

"Mr. Guines!" she asked in amazement, "what do you mean?"

"You know what I mean. You know that I love you with all my heart and soul, and that it just breaks me up to know that I'll never see you again after to-day!"

A flush of outraged pride stained her face. Anger scintillated in her eyes. Her lips curled in superb disdain. She was almost stricken dumb with the magnitude of his presumption. He had not raised his head and did not see the effect of his words. In a moment the girl's manner changed. The flush faded from her cheeks and the spirit of anger made way for a thousand sprites of merriment. The disdainful lips relaxed into smiles which with difficulty she restrained from breaking into laughter.

"I've had no peace ever since you came. I can't sleep at night weighing you against ambition in my mind. I think sometimes that I'd rather live with you in the poorest mountain cabin, than with any other woman in a palace. I know you have reason to complain of the way I've acted; I've followed you like a shadow, I've showed by every way in the world except speaking out, that I loved you, and all the time I knew I couldn't do that; that there was no chance for me. I don't mean that I'm afraid of any other man, I'm not. I want to make something of myself, to climb higher all the time. I'll have to marry money to win position and influence. There is only one way in which I can do that, and God only knows how bitter the pill is. Miss Pauline, loving you as I do, loving you as I must, it just makes me heart-sick thinking of what might be if I was a rich man or you a rich woman."

She looked at him as if she had discovered some rare anomaly in the animal kingdom, but she gently said:

"I understand your position. You must marry some woman who can advance your political career."

"Yes, that's just it, and you——"

"Could not have done so," she supplemented.

"I hope you won't feel that I've treated you wrong; after all, you know you haven't said you loved me, I don't know what your answer would have been if I could have asked you to marry me."

"No, you do not know."

He arose to go. The color had faded from his bronzed face, his lips twitched. He held her slight hand for a moment in his trembling clasp. He took in every detail of the picture she made; the simple dress, the delicate bloom of her face, her winsome grace.

"God knows," said he huskily, "that in telling you good-by, I'm saying the word to my own heart's happiness. I love you better than all this world holds, and yet only last night I asked Tildy Ledbetter to marry me."

A wave of pity swept over the girl's face, his emotion was so intensely sincere.

"That was best perhaps," she said, "I do not think you will ever regret; it and now it is time to call the children."

* * * * * *

The Tennessee election was over. The popular candidate of the democratic party had been elected governor. The enthusiasm attending his election was scarcely greater than that which was excited by the victory of the young "silver tongued orator" of Middle Tennessee, who had won in the congressional race.

West and Middle Tennessee furnished the usual number of democratic representatives, with the exception of the eighth district, which elected Joel Guines, republican. He came at once to Nashville with his wife.

The inauguration of the governor was followed by a magnificent ball, a farewell compliment to the young congressman whose marriage had just been consummated. The flower laden air pulsated with the melody from the orchestra. Nashville's beauty and gallantry were gathered there, gliding through the waltz in graceful rhythm with the music, tete-a-tete in some restful alcove, or gathered in congenial groups, where wit, repartee and laughter ruled the hour.

With his wife Joel Guines had been wandering aimlessly around. Suddenly she clutched his arm and exclaimed:

"Great Spoons! Joel, if yander ain't that school teacher who tried so hard to ketch you las' summer. She's dyked out fit to kill; look! there she is a talkin' to the Governor!"

He looked in the direction indicated. There she stood in all the glory of her regal womanhood. He had seen her in the simple dress of the mountains, with the waves of her shining hair drawn smoothly from her brow. Now she wore her bridal dress, a creation in French art of pearly satin and mist-like lace, and from the coronet of her hair flashed diamond stars. She was the center of a glittering circle, queen of love and beauty. Joel Guines stood as though stunned. His wife pulled at his arm but he shook her off. He was listening intently to the conversation of two gentlemen near him.

"Nashville's loss will be Washington's gain, which I believe is the consolation of obituaries. With what charming grace Tennessee's belle will take her place in the court circles of the capital."

"This marriage is the consummation of a long engagement, is it not?" asked one gentleman.

"Yes, dating back to the summer she spent in Europe. Two Tennessee people must needs go to Paris to fall in love. It is an ideal marriage. Both are eminently wealthy, talented, and popular."

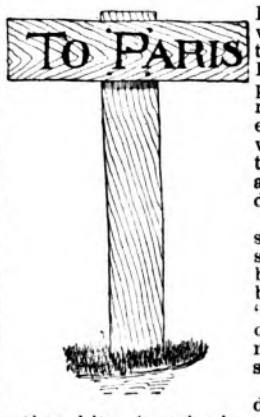
"Where did Miss Baxter spend the summer? I did not meet her anywhere."

"Have you not heard of her last summer's romantic adventure? She has great literary talent which she wished to develop. She was particularly anxious to make a study of the denizens of the backwoods. For this cause our dainty belle betook herself to "the hill country" of Perry. She identified herself with the people and taught school in order to study child-nature. She went to camp-meetings, barn-dances, fish-frys, funerals and weddings, and the result is she has written a booklet which has forever established her literary fame. It is as fresh as the mountain breezes and as pure as its dew. It is the book of the season. Irresistible in its beautiful and artistic blending of wit, humor and pathos."

Joel caught his breath as he listened. He looked once more on her radiant, lovely face, then caught his wife's arm and mutely turned away.

A FEATURE OF 1900.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



THE Paris Exposition, which bids well to be the greatest World's Fair of this age of prosperity and progress, is of great interest to us all, even if we are not expecting to join the throngs already headed in that direction.

Such palaces, though still in an embryo state, have never yet been seen, and the buildings of the "White City" in '93 dwindle into insignificance in comparison.

An amusing anecdote is told which rather hits America in a tender spot. At a recent Convention of Architects in Paris, a vote was taken of the country which presented plans for the handsomest building, and on Italy was conferred the preference. Then in way of a joke a vote was taken for the country presenting the ugliest building, and the United States received that vote almost unanimously.

As yet, the only completed building on the Exposition grounds is the Trocadero Palace and this was built for the Exposition in 1878. It is a mammoth edifice on the right bank of the Seine with a semi-circular front surmounted by two towers two hundred and seventy-five feet in height and is, taking it as a whole, very oriental in its architecture.

Although called a palace, it is in reality a gallery devoted to science and art, where are found some of the most historical collections in Europe. The concert hall, in the main body, seats sixty thousand people. It is called Trocadero from a Spanish fort captured by the French early in this century. Around the palace considerable extent of ground will be devoted to the industries, characteristics and amusements of the different nations.

Japan, China, Korea, Liberia and Russia will be represented. Japanese villages, dancing dervishes, rug weavers of India, in short a midway on an enormous scale, with probably the inevitable ostrich farm, congress of beauties and the howling streets of Cairo under new and alluring names. It has been well said that the American idea of Europe's cheapness would better be forgotten for 1900. The sole arrangement that is within the reach of the smallest purse, is that a camera may be admitted to the grounds for the total sum of one dime. That seems very moderate and from this fact we conclude that those of us who remain at home will probably have a condensed view of the nations in "snap-shots".

Beside the palace previously mentioned, standing at present on the Exposition grounds is the far-famed Eiffel Tower, which, too, was a feature of '78. Contrary to public opinion when it was being erected, this tower *is* a unique work of art and an ornament to the entire city, and is the highest structure man ever built. Stoddard calls it "a miracle of strength and lightness." The tower is made up of fifteen thousand sections and forty draughtsmen worked for two years on these different parts to make it symmetrical and exact.

Elevators run to the top of the tower and in its galleries and corridors, restaurants and theaters, ten thousand people can gather at one time. The Eiffel tower has been truly called the "vertical city."

So with all the excitement and wonders to see in Paris' normal state, when the Exposition opens and the city is full to overflowing, sights of a lifetime may be crowded into a very short visit.

"Come to Paris and take a walk around the world and rub elbows, as it were, with the universe."

Stories Which Mrs. Livermore Tells.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



NO woman in the country is more respected and beloved than Mrs. Mary A. Livermore. I once heard her tell in most amusing way how she was not allowed to enter college. She was speaking of Radcliffe, and the many women's colleges now making so many opportunities which the girls of her day never had.

"It was when I was sixteen years old," said Mrs. Livermore, "so it must have been over sixty years ago. Five other girls and myself wanted to go to college so much that we decided to beard the lion in his den, and ask the officials of Harvard to let us enter there. We knew we were just as well qualified as many of the boys, and better than some of them, for we had studied right along in the high school with boys who had already entered.

"So we went and called upon the president, and told him what we wanted. Do you know we were hardly treated with respect, it was such an unheard of thing. 'Why, what you want to learn is how to cook a steak and make coffee for the men who go to college.'

"Then he opened the door and actually turned us out of the room. I had had to promise, before I was allowed to go, that I would hold my tongue, because I was known to be rather too quick to speak, but I was so angry at this that when I got to the door I turned around and said—'I just wish I was God for just one hour. I'd kill off every woman in the world, and then let the men see how they would get along without them.'"

What Florence Nightingale was to the English soldiers in the Crimean War, Mrs. Bickerdyke, whom all the soldiers came to call "Mother," was to the men in our own Civil War. Mrs. Livermore, who was closely associated with Mother Bickerdyke in Chicago in the work of the Sanitary Commission, and all through the war, learned to love her dearly, and never tires of talking about her. Not long ago she told me the story of the potatoes which the nurse put in a sick soldier's bed.

"Mother Bickerdyke's experience," said Mrs. Livermore, "transcended that of any other woman. She not only had the instinct which must be born in a person, but she had infinite ingenuity and patience in doing for her sick soldiers many things which an ordinary nurse would never have taken the trouble to do.

"Once a poor young fellow, but little more than a boy in years, who had been wounded and a long time in the hospital, craved a baked potato to eat. Mother Bickerdyke told him he should have it just as soon as it was safe for him to eat it, but weak from illness, his mind continued to cling to the idea of the potato with so much longing that finally, one day, she took four nice, new raw potatoes, washed them carefully and then dried and warmed them. Then bringing them to the bed she said: 'There, my boy, there are four nice potatoes. You shall have them in bed where you can touch them and look at them, and just as soon as it is prudent you shall have one like the best of these cooked to eat.' The sick man was happy as a child with his treasure, contented and quiet.

"The next day when the ward surgeon made his rounds he found the potatoes in the bed, and threw them out on to the floor. Mother Bickerdyke happened to be out of the room at the time, but she came in before he had finished his visit. She saw the potatoes on the floor and the sick man crying.

"'Who threw those potatoes out there?' she asked.

"'I did,' said the surgeon.

"'What did you do that for?'

"'Because they were foolish and unnecessary. I'm not going to have the beds in this hospital made into potato hills.'

"Mother Bickerdyke swooped down on the potatoes and gathered them up in her apron. 'Do you think anything is foolish,' she said, 'which makes a sick man comfortable and happy? Those potatoes couldn't possibly hurt him, for I even warmed them so that they would not be cold to touch; and they made him happy.' Then she went to the bed. 'There my poor boy,' said she, putting the potatoes back in the bed, 'you shall have them, and you shall keep them until they sprout, if you want to.' And he did keep them until he was able to eat his potato baked."

The many friends of Mrs. Livermore all over the country will sympathize with her in the death of her husband, Rev. D. P. Livermore, which has recently occurred at their home at Melrose, Massachusetts. Dr. Livermore was a Universalist minister who had held several important pastorates in and near Boston, but much of his time, especially during the later years of his life, had been given up to editorial work and to helping his wife in her many important literary undertakings. At the time of the dinner given Mrs. Livermore when she was seventy-five years old, when she practically retired from public work, she rendered a most eloquent tribute to her husband, saying that she would never have been able to accomplish a fraction of the work she had done if it had not been for the constant assistance which he had given her.

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"My daughter Josie during the winter of 1897-98 suffered a complete break-down in health. She was thin and pale, had no appetite, and was so weak that she was unable to walk to school. Those who knew her condition said that she was in the first stages of consumption. Shortly after school closed, on the advice of a neighbor, we began giving her Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People. The effect on her condition was marvelous. Before she had taken half a box her condition was improved, and she kept on gaining appetite, strength and flesh until she was entirely well.

"She took three boxes of the pills and to-day there is not a healthier, more robust looking girl in Carterville. She is fleshier and healthier than ever before in her life."

MRS. J. M. RIGGS.

Subscribed and sworn to before me a notary public, this 15th day of October, 1898.

WM. WOLCOTT, *Notary Public.*

From the Journal, Carterville, Mo.

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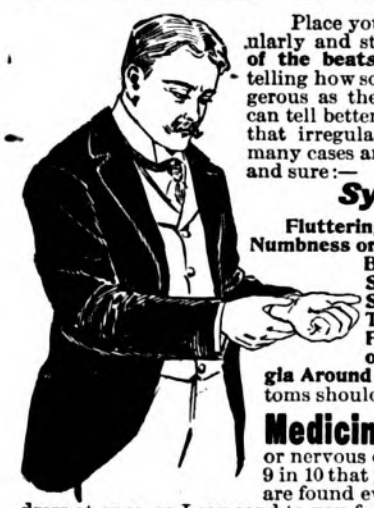


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Place your finger on your pulse and see if your heart beats regularly and steadily. **If there is a single skipping or irregularity of the beats, your heart is weak or diseased,** and there is no telling how soon it will stop beating altogether. Heart troubles, dangerous as they are, can be instantly recognized by all. No doctor can tell better than you if your heart is out of order. But remember that irregular or skipping beats are **only one symptom,** and in many cases are not found. Any of the following are just as positive and sure:—

Symptoms of Heart Trouble.

Fluttering, Palpitation, Shortness of Breath, Tenderness, Numbness or Pain in the Left Side, Arm or Under the Shoulder Blade; Fainting Spells, Dizziness, Hungry or Weak Spells; Spots Before the Eyes; Sudden Starting in Sleep, Dreaming, Nightmare, Choking Sensation in Throat; Oppressed Feeling in Chest; Cold Hands and Feet; Painful to Lie on Left Side; Drowsy, Swelling of the Feet or Ankles (one of the surest signs), **Neuralgia Around the Heart.** Persons having even **one** of these symptoms should not delay treatment a single day.

Medicine Free to All. If you have been treating yourself for stomach, lung, kidney or nervous disease, and have failed to find a cure, the chances are 9 in 10 that **your trouble is in your heart.** Hundreds of such cases are found every year. I want you to send me your name and address at once, so I can send to you for trial a box of my celebrated Heart Tablets **absolutely free of charge,** by mail, prepaid. Don't fail to write me if you have a single one of the above symptoms. I can cure you beyond any question, and will send the free tablets **to prove it to you personally.** Delays are dangerous. Inclose stamp for postage.

Address **DR. AUSTIN ALBRO,** Box 962 Augusta, Maine.

CURRENT TOPICS IN AMERICAN HISTORY

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



ALBERT J. BEVERIDGE.

However much any reader of COMFORT may differ with the general policy which is known as expansion, there can be no doubt but that every one feels an intense interest in the course of the American government now that we are one of the leading powers of the world. The Samoan treaty by which that group of islands was governed by America, Britain and Germany has given way to an agreement by which the group is divided. America holds the island of Tutulia, containing the great harbor of Pago-Pago, where we have held rights to a Naval Station for a number of years and which was the cause of our original interest in the many troubles of the islanders.

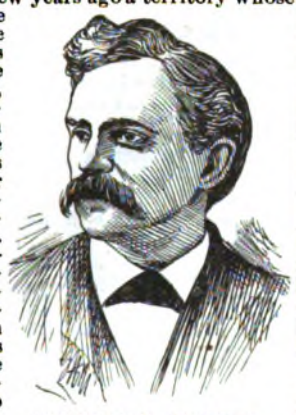
As was expected by all observers, Congress had hardly reassembled after the holidays before the Philippine question appeared before both branches in several forms. The most exciting debate was in the Senate early in January. On the 9th of that month Senator Beveridge, a young man of great promise from Indiana, introduced his resolution in a speech which takes high rank in ability and which might be termed the extreme view of an extreme Imperialist.

The resolution read as follows:

Be it resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, that the Philippine Islands are territory belonging to the United States; that it is the intention of the United States to retain them as such and to establish and maintain such governmental control throughout the archipelago as the situation may demand. And the speech embodied the personal observations of the Senator during his recent extended visit to the Philippines. The speech, which was widely commented on, was a revelation of the material value and conditions of the islands. In the debate, Senators Hoar of Massachusetts and Pettigrew of South Dakota made strong speeches against the presumable policy of the government to retain the islands in our possession.

There have been three interesting cases in this session of Congress relative to the control which each body has over its own makeup. Nearly the first day of the present session there was presented in the House of Representatives probably the largest petitions which were ever brought before that body, and which were carried up to the Speaker's desk in huge rolls and deposited in an imposing array. These papers represented the signatures of no less than 7,000,000 American women, with an immense array of male petitioners, asking for the exclusion of Brigham H. Roberts from the House of Representatives.

The state of Utah, as our readers will remember, was until a few years ago a territory whose politics were dominated by the Latter Day Saints or, as they are generally known, Mormons. Beside the Mormon population there were nearly as many Gentiles, or people not believing in the Mormon religion. From the beginning the Mormons have believed in polygamy, and although many attempts have been made by the Government to stamp out this blot, nothing was effected until Utah applied for the rights of statehood. At the same time there have been anti-polygamy laws passed, and it was agreed that should the rights of statehood be conferred on Utah no polygamist should ever be elected to any United States office. While there have been very few polygamist marriages since then, many of the Mormons are still living with several wives. In the case of Roberts it is alleged that he had three wives living in different homes. It is hard to find what the real facts in the case are, but it is believed that for some reason the Mormon Church did not support him for Congress, and that his election was almost entirely due to the votes of the Gentiles.



BRIGHAM H. ROBERTS.

A special committee was appointed by Speaker Henderson and held a most searching investigation. The majority of the committee rendered a report excluding Roberts from the House without admission. Mr. Littlefield of Maine and DeArmond of Missouri presented a minority report, asking for his admission and exclusion afterwards. This gave rise to an extremely interesting debate in which Mr. Littlefield made his first speech which clearly placed him in the front rank of ready debaters, and was a masterly effort which received unusually high commendation for a maiden effort. It was believed, however, that should Roberts be admitted to the House his exclusion afterwards might be difficult and raise serious legal questions which could only be settled by the Supreme Court. The vote was overwhelming, being 268 to exclude him without admission, and only 50 in his favor. It is believed by everyone that this strong utterance by the people's representatives will have a wholesome effect, and that polygamists will appreciate hereafter that they must act in good faith toward the Government or receive no recognition.

The other two cases to which we have referred are in the Senate. The first is the case of William A. Clark who was elected United States Senator from Montana. This is a contested election case, although Mr. Clark is apparently elected, and has the certificate. He is charged with wholesale bribery of members of the legislature. By a unanimous decision of the Montana Supreme Court, Attorney General John D. Wellcome of that state was publicly disbarred for acting as agent for Clark in the bribery of various members. Mr. Wellcome was the acknowledged agent of Mr. Clark in the very bitter struggle which took place during the session of the Montana legislature, which it will be remembered was largely the fight of interested capitalists. The claim that Wellcome bribed members of the legislature to vote for Clark was freely made at the time of the contest and was repeated in various reputable newspapers. It was repeated under oath, and publicly proven to the satisfaction of the supreme judges of Montana, which brought about this act of disbarment. The vote being unanimous cannot but have serious influence with the Senatorial committee of privileges and elections, which is now hearing the case. The charge against Senator Clark is bribery, and numerous witnesses who have visited Washington have made most detailed statements of these facts. The sums offered for votes and the incidents surrounding the efforts of Mr. Clark and his agents to secure votes are stated so explicitly and with so little contradiction and are supported with such a wealth of evidence that it will take a great deal of strength on the other side to prove that his election was free from corruption.

Finally, a case that is obtaining much attention both in and out of Congress, and causing endless discussion everywhere, is that of Matthew S. Quay, who has been appointed a Senator from Pennsylvania by the Governor and has appeared in Washington with his certificate, and now his case is before the committee on elections. Mr. Quay is one of the most adroit politicians in the country, and has been uniformly successful. He has held the state of Pennsylvania and the republican party there strongly in his grip, although numerous attempts have been made to oust him from leadership, but none have been successful. He appeared before the last legislature as a candidate for re-election to the Senate, but was unable to obtain within twenty or thirty votes of the necessary majority. Numerous ballotings were held for weeks at Harrisburg, and finally the legislature adjourned without any election. He was immediately appointed by Governor Stone. As there have been one or two similar cases, and that of California still pending, the Quay case has raised a great question whether a governor in such a case should appoint. Those in favor of Mr. Quay's side state that it was intended by the makers of the constitution that there should be two representatives for every state in the upper house at all times; but as the constitution says the governor *may* appoint in case of a vacancy, the opponents of Mr. Quay claim that it is not mandatory, especially as the legislature by its own act failed to send a successor, and that under no circumstance should a governor be permitted to appoint a senator for a whole term. As there have been three or four states denied half their representation on account of the legislature failing to elect, the oft raised question of a constitutional amendment to permit the people to elect United States senators by direct vote is again being agitated, and is receiving much more attention than usual on account of the prominence of Mr. Quay's case. The majority report, largely signed by democrats, has been received recommending the exclusion of Mr. Quay; while a minority report, signed by some of the republicans of the committee, recommends his admission. When the case is debated before the Senate it will command unusual attention and will be supported and opposed by the best talent in the upper House.



WILLIAM A. CLARK.

As has been pointed out many times, the sentiment of the country is overwhelmingly in favor of the early completion of the Nicaraguan canal. With possessions in the Pacific, and the necessity of quick water communication between the Atlantic and Pacific coasts, we have learned the urgent necessity of a shorter route to the Pacific from the East. In the earlier part of February, a treaty was signed between Secretary of State Hay and Sir Julian Pauncefote, the British ambassador, by which the Clayton-Bulwer treaty was abrogated in part. This treaty, which was completed some time in the 40s, provided that any canal built across the Isthmus must be under the joint ownership and control of England and America. Under the terms of the present treaty, England withdraws all claims, but it is stipulated that this canal must forever be neutral water, and that in time of war, ships of any nation may travel it without interference. It is also stipulated that it is not to be fortified at either end. This treaty was received in England with considerable feeling, as it was believed everything had been given the Americans without any reciprocity, and much complaint was made that in ceding their rights the British would not have obtained certain privileges on the Alaskan boundaries and tide waters.

A canvass of Congress showed conclusively that a large majority are in favor of the immediate building of the canal, and it is believed that $140,000,000 will be ultimately appropriated to be used in certain quantities until the completion of the canal, $10,000,000 being immediately available for the work. The only objections which have been raised are that the United States in paying for this canal should not give away its rights for its control in time of war, and that it should also hold to its former intention of fortifying both ends of the canal to prevent any damage in time of war. It is also contended, on the contrary, that the canal would be safer as neutral water, for in case of war it would be easy to destroy large parts of it from the interior, and so ruin a great work. An early debate bearing upon the whole subject, and especially the condition of the French Isthmian canal, upon which a United States Commission is still to report, is likely at an early date.

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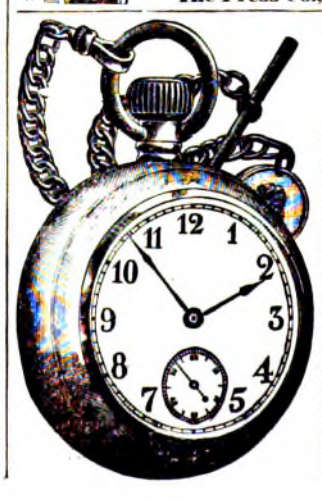
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THE SOUTH AFRICAN WAR.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



THE month of January proved an exciting one in the Boer campaign and every move has been followed in the telegraphic reports to the press. As has been indicated in previous articles in COMFORT on the Boer war, it is not our intention to give a complete history of the various events which necessarily happen nearly a month before the publication of each number; but rather our design is to note some of the features and characteristics of the people and campaign that may interest our readers and enable them to more intelligently read the daily dispatches as published in the newspaper press. Should any interested reader desire information on any particular point a letter sent to the editor asking the question will cause the answer to be embodied in the next article.

The initial cut shows the difficulties of the present warfare. This picture is from a photograph of a Boer detachment getting a gun placed in a commanding position on one of the numerous "Kops", or hills, commanding the passes in the mountains leading to Ladysmith. Reading the accounts of these desperate conflicts, we are apt to underrate and forget the difficulties of the struggle. The Boers are strongly intrenched in a mountainous region and are armed with the most modern and destructive weapons. For a long time they were on numerically even terms, which gave the Boers in the defensive a great advantage. As February enters we find that, notwithstanding immense reinforcements for the British, the superior strategy of the Boers has more than made up for want of men; and, that the three British armies have been soundly thrashed and are now completely held at bay.

The Briton is never in better shape than when meeting with reverses, and as was expected the whole British population, dismayed and aghast, grimly prepares to make the best of it and fight it through to the end. It is a very noticeable fact that even the strongest Boer sympathizers expect that England will eventually win, which in part shows how generally the Bulldog tenacity of the Saxon race is admitted. But aside from this, Great Britain to save herself must win, no matter at what cost. Her defeat in this war would be the commencement of her struggle against all Europe for her very life.

A very common comment on this war is concerning its great death list. The world has been much impressed by Gen. Methuen's despatches in which he calls his defeat at Modder River "the bloodiest fighting of the century." This has caused many interested writers to make comparisons. Without looking at statistics one would naturally accept the statement, considering the great effectiveness of modern armament; but the claim is at once dispelled when figures are produced. Gen. Methuen had 6500 men and his losses in killed and wounded were 475, seven and a half per cent. In fifty battles of our own Civil war the Union loss was an average of sixteen per cent., while the Confederates lost eighteen. Where small bodies such as Methuen had engaged, the average loss was twenty per cent. In the Union army Hancock lost fifty per cent. at Fredericksburg and Longstreet the same at Gaines Mills.

And yet the newspapers speak of a General in full retreat after a loss of six or seven per cent. as not knowing when he is beaten and of the fire having been such as no man could resist. These troops have neither been in "the bloodiest fighting of the century" nor have they begun to show the fighting qualities and the endurance of the American volunteers on both sides in our Civil war. Newspapers are largely responsible for the exaggerations of modern warfare. Even in our late Spanish war slight skirmishes were called bloody battles, and every soldier was a hero in the newspaper column.



THE HIGHLANDERS AFTER BATTLE.

Just at present there is being held a series of pro-Boer meetings in different parts of the States. These are largely intended to work up sentimental feeling to such a pitch as to cause political action and recognition of the independency of the Transvaal. Every citizen has a perfect right to think as he may please; but no good citizen will try to have our government intervene. We always stood out against England or any other country interfering in our quarrels, and as a matter of consistency we should be very careful how we move. Every reader should remember that, should the British Empire fall, Russia will be the leading nation of the world and instead of the Anglo-Saxon domination in civilization we should have the Muscovite directing the world's affairs.

In our own country there has lately been some discussion as to the propriety of giving something beside the numerical name to a regiment, and it is pointed out that in reading of foreign wars such as the present, and especially in foreign novels we become accustomed to certain designatory names of regiments in the foreign armies, which unconsciously gives them an interest to us when we read of their deeds in the press.

No more familiar instance of this can be found than by the press despatches from the Transvaal recounting as they continually do the movements of the Gordon Highlanders, until this regiment is as familiar to the newspaper readers on two continents as that of any general in either army. To give American readers a clearer idea of this remarkable body of fighters we will reproduce in concise form the extended histories of this regiment given in English pe iodicals.

With due regard to the wild scenes of enthusiasm which have attended the departure of many British military organizations for the front, nothing has equalled the demonstrations which attended the march of the Highlanders. Nor is it to be wondered at considering the high estimation this sturdy body of men holds in England's public estimation; and that above the passing regiment fluttered flags proudly bearing all of these names of British victories: "Egmont-op-Zee" "Mandera," "Corunna," "Fuetes d'Over," "Almavas," "Vittoria," "Pyrenees," "Nive," "Orthes," "Peninsular," "Waterloo," "Delhi," "Lucknow," "Kabal," "Kandihur," "Afghanistan," "Nile 1884-5," "Chitral," "South Africa" and "Tel-el-Kebir," which certainly comprise the most notable of modern English battles.

Before the present system of attaching popular names to regiments prevailed, they were known as the 92nd Infantry. In the year 1794, the Duke of Gordon, popularly known as "The Cock of the North," reorganized the regiment. His letter of instructions empowered him to enlist such of his own clansmen as cared to accept the King's shilling, and in less than a month he had a regiment of over 1000 men. They were immediately enrolled in the service and sent to the Mediterranean coast on garrison duty and it was not until five years after this time, in the war which was intended to wrest Holland from the French Republic, that they went into their first battle at Egmont-op-Zee. When an English army was sent to purge Spain of the French, the Highlanders were sent to the front and served most efficiently, losing their commander, Col. Napier, towards the close of this eventful Peninsular campaign, which first shook the power of Napoleon. Not only did they win victories in Spain; but with Wellington in Portugal won new laurels.

In the Waterloo campaign at Quatre Bras the Highlanders were brigaded with the Black Watch and Royal Scots, and made the famous charge against the French with bayonets putting them to flight. A shot from a solitary farmhouse on the field killed Col. Cameron and immediately his men charged the house killing every one of the French soldiers there.

Two days later at Waterloo with the Scots Grays they were hurled in a desperate and successful charge against the flower of the French army after having held the ground all day against a larger force. Forty years of peace folowed before the Crimean war when the regiment was again called into action. Since then, as the names of battles above indicate, the Highlanders have taken part in nearly every campaign that Britain has carried on, and have not been absent from a single one of the more important ones.



GENERAL WARREN.

A recent article appeared in an English financial paper showing the prepared state of the Transvaal and incidently showing Oom Paul's foresight. It was stated that never since all nations were at constant warfare had there been such an example of preparation and precaution. He created dynamite factories at Larfontein, which are the largest and finest in the world. They are on the line between Pretoria and Johannesburg and can turn out the finest high explosives known to science. The entire equipment is German and the work is done by Dutch and Kaffir help. Besides this Pretoria is surrounded by an unexcelled system of fortifications, equal to any in Europe. It is said with its resources and trained men the only way Pretoria could ever be taken would be by starvation after a long siege.

The most notable movement of the British army during this campaign was Gen. Buller's attempt to crush the right flank of the Boer army blocking his way for the relief of besieged Ladysmith. After a long halt following his defeat at Colenso, Buller threw out his left wing under Gen. Warren. On the Tugela river, January 11th, he occupied a position at Potgieter's Drift (ford) on the river north of Springfield, and about twenty miles west of the bridge at Colenso. Five days after Gen. Lyttleton's brigade forded the river. Gen. Warren's division forded the Tugela on a drift six miles further west the following day, but was met with a very heavy fire. Then the British captured Spion Kop (spy hill) by a night charge and for a moment felt they had the key of the position. In the morning, for a full day, they were mercilessly shelled and met with great losses. A night retreat followed and at least a portion of Warren's division crossed the Tugela in full retreat.

The news of this fresh disaster was received with dismay in England. Immediately a storm of criticism and resentment broke forth in press and parliament. The ministry and the generals came in for a great amount of serious questioning. The general opinion seems to be that the war council at home have tried to make Buller do impossible military feats. While at this writing Buller is the scapegoat, attention should be called to the marvelous defense Gen. White is conducting at Ladysmith. Cooped up since the beginning of the war with his whole army in an insignificant town, and one easily invested, he has against all odds and every prophecy held out for far over one hundred days. It seems an impossibility for him to hold out many days longer, and, if he capitulates, he will still be honored. Clearly, so far in the campaign Gen. White seems the only hero General the whole British army has produced. After a debate on the Queen's speech in Parliament a test vote showed an overwhelming majority supported the ministry and favored a fight to the finish with the Boers.



GENERAL WHITE.

As the writing of this article closes the British army seems to have been unable to push forward toward Ladysmith in a third attempt by Gen. Buller, who seems to have been met by an army too brave and too well handled to be beaten by him in their present position of advantage. In all probability Gen. Roberts, the Commander-in-chief, has already entered upon a campaign on an entirely different line, which will probably be an invasion and gradual advance through the Free State by a combined movement northward of the British troops now in Cape Colony. The press will now be full of most important war news although the scene of active war affairs will undoubtedly shift to a new part of South Africa's map.

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WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



THE following suggestions were sent to us by one of our readers, and we are sure they will be acceptable to all who are in search of something out of the ordinary way of entertaining. The first one took the form of a "Floral Love Song." The hostess provided the members with a sheet of writing paper and pencil. On the outside of the paper was an embossed purple pansy, the emblem of this circle. Any flower may be substituted. There was also the title of the affair written in purple ink "A Floral Love Story." On the inside were twenty questions as follows:

1. What was the maiden's name and the color of her hair? Answer. Marigold.
2. Her brother's name and an adjective applying to herself? A—Sweet William.
3. Her brother's favorite sport in winter? A—Snowball.
4. Upon what instrument did he play? A—Trumpet.
5. What hour did he wake his father playing on instrument? A—Four-o'clock.
6. What did his father punish him with? A—Golden-rod.
7. What nationality was his father? A—Wandering Jew.
8. What office did he hold in Church? A—Elder.
9. Her lover's name and with what did he write? A.—Jonquil.
10. What kind of confectionery did he bring her? A—Buttercups.
11. How did she become engaged? A—Aster.
12. For what did she ask? A—Thyme.
13. What flower did she offer her lover? A—Tulips.
14. To whom did she refer him? A—Poppy.
15. What flowers bloomed on her cheeks? A—Roses.
16. What did he lose when he married? A—Bachelor Buttons.
17. Who married them? A—Jack-in-the-Pulpit.
18. What numbers attended the wedding? A—Phlox.
19. Maiden Aunt's appearance and name? A—Primrose.
20. Where did they go on their wedding tour and what millionaire accompanied them? A—China Aster.

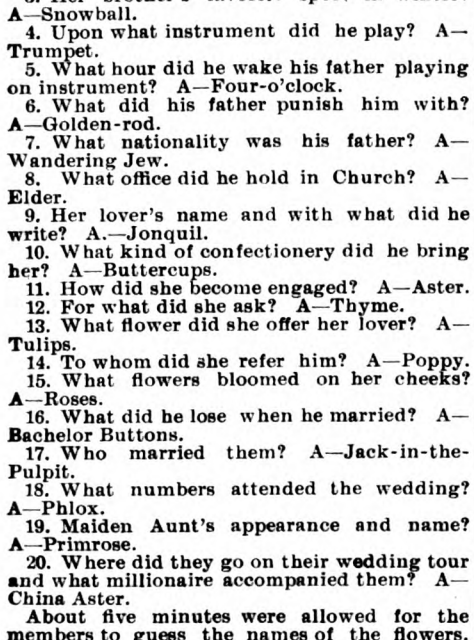
About five minutes were allowed for the members to guess the names of the flowers. And the person naming the largest number was rewarded with a beautiful bouquet of Jonquils.

A unique and novel manner to entertain guests in March was seen by the writer a few years ago. It is called "A Shamrock Party." The invitations were plain white squares upon which was inscribed in green ink:

The Misses Stone
at home
St. Patrick's Day.
Progressive ——

The missing word, the principal occasion for conjecture, was supplied by a small bunch of shamrocks held in place under a stiff bow of bright green ribbon, and in connection it came to light that not every one recognized the historic Irish emblem, twin sister of our own white clover. The envelopes were sealed with bright green wax stamped with a harp or clover.

The rooms were decorated with pots and jars bright with fresh green, the chosen color, and here and there were draped scarfs of the same tint. Upon the mantel was a large paste-board



SHAMROCK PARTY BOOKLET.

staff gilded, with trained crisp green smilax along its lines, while on the shelf were a number of golden notes reminding the guests "The harp that once through Tara's halls the soul of music shed."

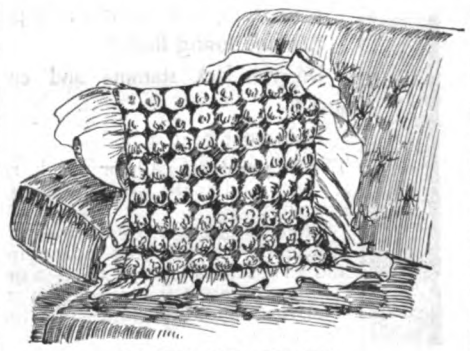
The flowers used were Jonquils. Near the entrance flourished a green plant that originated in a paper but was now much improved through transformation.

As the guests came in each picked a leaflet. Those for the ladies were of goodly size and fair shape, but the gentlemen had to be satisfied with inferior ones, nibbled about the edges. On the back of each leaf was an inscription varying according to circumstances: Table 1—A.

This indicated that the holder was to play at the first table and with the one who held a shamrock lettered to form a duplicate. The curiosity of the guests was at its height when the cards for the game were brought in.

The scores were booklets with Irish sketches on the backs and the inner leaves firmly secured by strands of green baby ribbon. A small brass ring was tied with the bow knot.

On each table was placed a toy pot of loose shamrock leaves which had been cut from a mucilaged sheet of green paper. At the signal all the players closed their eyes or were blind folded and each tried to properly place a leaflet on the green stem which appeared on the first page of each booklet. About one minute



BISCUIT SOFA PILLOW.

was allowed for this. Shamrocks were chosen for a second attempt and a third trial.

The couple showing the best branch of shamrocks went up to the next table, first fastening some unique marker to the ring. These markers were ebonized pots, effigies of Master Piggie, tiny shillalahs, harps, etc., swinging from green silk cords.

A black board was then produced and the guests drew Irish scenes. In the midst of the merriment sounded some Irish melodies, "The meeting of the Waters," "Erin! Oh Erin!" etc. They were then ushered into the dining room where green and gold predominated.

The mantel was banked with Jonquils and ferns; shades of yellow enclosed the lights and across the table was a floral bar of music. Strips of green wood held the five smilax twined wires, while Egyptian moss was twisted about the treble clef.

The golden notes were Jonquils. On either side of this was a crystal candelabra with green wax candles. Green flags showing the harp fluttered here and there.

Now for some fancy work.

We show illustration of a Biscuit Sofa Pillow, which is odd and very pretty, and is made of small pieces of silk, ribbon or velvet. Each puff is made on a square of cotton cloth. This cushion has one hundred and forty-four puffs. Cut the linings two and a quarter inches square and the silk three inches square.

Form the puff by taking a little fold in the silk on each side and insert a bit of wadding to hold the puff up. Sew the squares together, blending the colors nicely, and it well pays for the work one puts in it. The lining of the cushion may be any color which harmonizes; finish with cord or double ruffle.

A large bed quilt made in this way is very lovely.

It is astonishing how many pieces may be found that are suitable for this sort of thing and for nothing else. Soiled neckties, which are usually made of lovely silks, may be cleansed and used for this purpose. The work is pleasant to do and is very satisfactory when finished. A small quilt to lay over the foot or back of the couch or sofa in the family living room is very convenient, and if one finds fewer pieces of silk than expected, a quilt about half the usual width may be made for just this purpose. It should be full length—say two yards long by one yard wide.

Agents, Perfumes etc. on credit. Big Profit. Express Pd. Terms free. Herbene Co., Box 4, Station L, New York.

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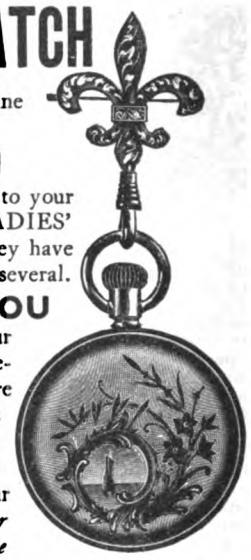
Stem wind, stem set, beautifully engraved, with a genuine American movement, warranted for two years,

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for a few minutes' work. All we ask is that you sell for us to your friends and neighbors 100 of our famous 14 kt. gold filled LADIES' BEAUTY PINS at 5 cents each (regular price 10 cents.) They have only to be shown to sell—every lady and girl in the land needs several.

SEND NO MONEY — WE TRUST YOU

If you would like to have the watch, just send us your name and address, saying that you will sell the pins or return them, and we will forward them at once. We are selling a million a month of these pins, and everybody is more than pleased with them. This watch is the best premium ever offered, and is easily earned on account of the small amount to be sold—only 100 pins at 5c. each. Send in your name to-day. Don't wait. *We have other premiums for smaller sales. You get our beautiful premium list with the goods. If you don't sell them all, you get a premium for what you do sell.*



Showing Front

Showing Back

The publisher of this paper will vouch for our reliability. Be sure and write to us to-day.

LADIES PIN CO., 877 SCHILLER BUILDING, CHICAGO.

NOTE. Don't waste your time trying to sell trash. Our goods have merit and people want them. It costs you nothing to have us prove this.



THE initial shows a remarkable specimen of an animal which recently arrived at Philadelphia from Brazil. It is called the Boogum, and is a powerful animal, being nearly five feet tall. When captured it was found sleeping with head downward, hanging from a tree. Its future home will be at the Zoo, where a cage of metal will be necessary as it can tear wood into splinters. There was great difficulty in bringing this animal over on shipboard.

Tobacco Cure

How a Mother Banished Cigarettes and Tobacco With a Harmless Remedy Given in Tea, Coffee and Food.

Anyone Can Have a Free Trial Package.

Some time ago a well known business man whose stomach and nerves were ruined by the tobacco habit was secretly given a remedy by his wife and he never knew what cured him of the habit. She then treated her son who was a cigarette fiend, inhaling the deadly fumes almost constantly and he too was made sick of the "weed" and quit.

The remedy is odorless and tasteless can be mixed with coffee or food and when taken into the system a man cannot use tobacco in any form. The remedy contains nothing that could possibly do injury. It is simply an antidote for the poisons of tobacco and takes nicotine out of the system. It will cure even the confirmed cigarette fiend and is a God-send to mothers who have growing boys addicted to the smoking of cigarettes. The remedy is called Tobacco Specific and a free trial package of the remedy will be mailed prepaid upon application to Rogers Drug & Chemical Co., 745 Fifth and Race Sts., Cincinnati, Ohio.



Spotted Calla. Begonia.

20 Packets SEEDS. FLOWERS 10 Choice Bulbs.

For 25c. we will send the following choice collection **for 25c.** post paid.

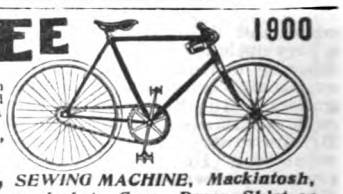
1 Pkt Double Chrysanthemum, hardy, great novelty
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1 Pkt Smilax, old favorite
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1 Pkt Schizanthus, grand
1 Pkt Brachycome (Daisy)
1 Pkt Nigella, Love in Mist
1 Pkt Bush Sweet Pea, new
1 Pkt Verbena, Sweet Scented
1 Pkt Petunia, fringed, mixed

10 Bulbs 1 Spotted Calla, 1 Begonia, 1 Amaryillis, 2 Montbretias, 1 Cinnamon Vine, 1 Madeira Vine, 2 Gladiolus, brilliant colors; 1 Tuberose, double.

All the above Seeds and Bulbs, together with our new colored plate catalog, sent postpaid for 25c. NOTICE.—A return check good for 25c. sent with each collection.

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OUR OFFER: Cut this ad out and send to us. Inclose a good sized sample of the exact shade wanted, and cut it out as near the roots as possible, inclose **our special price quoted and 5 cents extra to pay postage, and we will make the switch to match your hair exact,** and send to you by mail, postpaid, and if you are not perfectly satisfied, return it and we will immediately refund your money.

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CASH BUYERS' UNION, 158 W. VanBuren St., B- 5, Chicago

Please mention COMFORT when you write.



Free

This magnificent **Solid Gold** shell ring, set with a brilliant simulation **Diamond** free, if you will sell 6 sets of our Beauty Pins (each set with an exquisite Jewel) at 25c. a set. Send name & address. No money wanted. We run all risk and take back what you cannot sell. Also an extra handsome present if you write to-day. The Maxwell Co., Dept. **210** St. Louis, Mo.

AN ART GIFT FOR THE HOME.

There is nothing about a home as necessary as a fine duster. This picture shows the new **All Wool Duster.** Neat and convenient and so soft and clean that the daintiest article may be dusted with it without danger of scratching or scarring. Removes all dust without effort. Every duster may be hung in parlor where they make nice ornaments. **Assorted Art Colors with highly finished wood handle** firmly secured with **Bright Aluminum Ferrule,** that never tarnishes or grows dull. Will last for years and always just the handiest thing a woman can have in the house, or a man in the store or office. Make delightful presents for your friends as a gift or souvenir. Agents will find them the best selling article in the market. Special terms for those who wish to sell **A GREAT OFFER FOR ALL.** We will send one sample All Wool Duster free to any person who will send twelve cents for a trial three months' subscription to our great family paper. The best offer ever made. Address



GOLDEN MOMENTS, Augusta, Maine.



EDITOR'S NOTE. The following rules govern the publication of matter in this department.

Contributors must without exception be regular subscribers to Comfort, and every contribution must bear the writer's own name and post-office address in full.

Original letters only, which deal with matters of general interest, will be published. They must be as brief, plain and correct as the writers can make them, and may vary in length from one hundred to four hundred words. Only letters of exceptional merit and interest may reach six hundred and fifty words. Contributors must write on one side of the paper only.

$10 CASH PRIZES $10.

The following cash prizes will be paid monthly:

1st.	For the best original letter	$3.00
2nd.	" " second best original letter	2.50
3rd.	" " third " " "	2.00
4th.	" " fourth " " "	1.50
5th.	" " fifth " " "	1.00

Competitors for these monthly cash prizes must *comply with all the above rules*, and in addition must bring at least one new Cousin into the COMFORT circle; that is, they must send one new subscriber with each letter, together with 50 cents for a yearly subscription.

These cash prizes will be announced monthly in this department.

No premiums will be given for subscriptions sent in under this Prize Offer.

All communications must be addressed to Aunt Minerva, care of COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

CASH PRIZE WINNERS.

Maud B. Rogers,	**$3.00**
Mary W. Early,	**2.50**
Mrs. F. R. Shurte,	**2.00**
Mrs. Lewis Flemer,	**1.50**
Louise Snow,	**1.00**

DEAR NIECES AND NEPHEWS:

Lo! here again is old March, bringing promises of spring to all inhabitants of our land, but how various is his mien, and how differently is his message worded as he flies! To our northern cousins he comes with furious howls, with bitter cold and falling snows, and some of winter's worst storms he drags shrieking in his train to pour out their fury during his brief reign. But to the dwellers in the sunny southern states he brings a smiling face, warm, gentle breezes, flowers, and all green things.

Ah! he is a two-faced fellow, is March, with smiles for some of his subjects and frowns and harsh treatment for others; but, as with many a human being in this varied world, we must e'en take him as we find him and make the best we can of him.

Our first letter this month is from California, and describes a novel way of utilizing discarded street cars.

"A very short distance from streets and avenues of costly houses, and close beside the ocean beach entrance to Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, there have very recently been erected some of the most extraordinary homes in the state. The dense park forest and the few high hills lying between the city and the ocean are all that divide the thickly settled streets from this new and isolated region and when one has been swiftly carried hither by the electric cars it is hard to realize that he is yet close to the bustle and life of a great city. The building site too is extraordinary, among the countless and ever shifting sand dunes so close beside the ocean that the boulevard alone separates it from the wash of the surf.

"From a distance the houses have a very peculiar appearance owing to their being partially constructed of the horse cars left here when electric



GOLDEN GATE PARK.

cars were added to San Francisco, and with their many small windows, their low height and solid build remind one, especially when lighted up at night, of the ships passing by a little way off. Within all is cosy, and the wind which every day blows in from the sea with blustering vigor, shifts the sand and seems to make the snug dwellings seem all the more secure.

"In one particular dwelling somewhat more capacious than the rest the street cars are used for upstairs bedrooms. On the lower floor under the front car is the parlor, extending on each side a few feet wider than the car above. Behind this is a smaller room with steps leading into the upstairs hall which separates the cars, and behind this the kitchen, underneath the back car bedroom, the same size as the parlor. Books line the walls, potted plants stand in the windows and within all has the aspect of a snug interior. The residents are already setting out plants similar to those growing in that part of the park nearest to them, and in time they will make as fine a showing as these, but at present there is no wind-break and the sand remorselessly covers them over many times a day." MAUD B. ROGERS,
Menlo Park, California.

Now we have a foreign letter which is especially interesting this spring, when so many are planning to visit, the coming summer, the places here described.

"I always read the letters in COMFORT with great interest and am tempted to offer you a short account of my visit to Orleans, France.

"Twilight was deepening when our train stopped at that beautifully situated city—Orleans—on the Loire, some seventy or eighty miles from Paris. Calling a carriage we were driven to the best hotel—Hotel d' Orleans—which proved to be a very antiquated affair, surrounding a circular, grass-grown court, in which we alighted.

"Everything connected with the establishment, even the chicken served at dinner, could be nicely described by that one word '*ancient*', and it was only youthful energy and good teeth, urged by hunger, that enabled us to accomplish the utter annihilation of that hen. That feat accomplished we sallied forth on a little tour of inspection by lamplight.

"We passed the house of Agnes Sarrel, which seemed to be deserted and dark. The little grass plot in front was entirely overgrown with weeds. After passing the houses of Diane de Poitiers and Francois I. of Pothier, we found our way back to the Hotel d' Orleans.

"In the morning we visited first the famous Cathedral, with its two high towers. It is situated on a large 'Place' and is indeed awe-inspiring seen from within. It was begun in the early centuries and finished by Charles VII. in commemoration of Joan of Arc. How little did the French people appreciate her while she lived! And now the whole city seems filled with her spirit and souvenirs of her abound in the stores. The tall house situated in an unfrequented street, where she is said to have lived, is not conspicuous for anything except it be its narrowness. We were directed to the equestrian statue of Joan by a peasant who spoke altogether a different 'patois' from what we had been used to hearing in Bordeaux. We found that statue the best of three which have been erected in her honor."

MRS. LEWIS FLEMER, Washington, D. C.

Now back to our own country again.

"About five miles from old Tioga Point, a place of great historic interest in Pennsylvania, is Spanish Hill, a spot of considerable celebrity, but whether natural or in part artificial, we of to-day are left in doubt. This hill is two hundred feet high and one mile in circumference, but it seemed much more when we clambered laboriously, in a slanting, round-about way, up its steep, rocky sides. At the northwest it is covered with a deep forest of evergreen, through which the ascending path winds, the pine needles thickly strewing the ground and filling the air with their spicy fragrance. The curving path brings us out at the top of the hill at the southwest, where from its summit there is a fine view of the far-reaching ranges of foot-hills and mountains that seem to almost surround the beautiful, wide valley below. At the right the shining Chemung, and at the left the beautiful Susquehanna flow through well cultivated farm lands, the rich fields of differently colored grains making a charming piece of Nature's mosaic.

"Only faint indications of the old fortification can be seen on the hill's summit, which is now a nearly smooth plateau, with not a tree, and but few shrubs and wild flowers growing on its grassy surface.

"The Indians had a superstitious fear of this hill-top, and though their hunting ground lay in this vicinity, they seldom went nigh it. There was a tradition that a chief once went to the summit and the Manitou caught him by the scalp-lock and hurled him hence to regions unknown. His real fate is supposed to have been that he was made away with by the Spanish buccaneers, or refugees from Florida, who gave to the hill its name. There is a generally accredited legend that an Indian chieftain wedded a Spanish maiden and rescued and guided the refugees in safety to the distant West. A wild fable once existed to the effect that this hill was the spot where the notorious Captain Kidd had secreted his much sought treasure, and credulous persons delved and searched long and arduously, but vainly for it, though pieces of Spanish coin have been picked up on its surface."

LOUISE SNOW, Athens, Pa.

Emily Hunter, of Wrightsboro, Texas, sends us a story for which I thank her, but I cannot make use of it beause, as I have said a great many times, we do not use stories on this page. Her description of the Mexicans, which I print below, is, however, very readable.

"The Mexicans live in little huts made of grass, poles, brush and dirt. They have no stoves, but cook in skillets and set their dishes on the floor while they eat. On Saturday nights they get together, for miles around, and dance all night. Sundays they spend in visiting each other. All the remainder of the week during the autumn months, is spent in picking cotton, and during the spring and summer months in hoeing corn and chopping cotton.

"They seem to be happy, for they sing most of the time. Some of the Senoritas are very pretty and others are horribly ugly."

J. J. Tumlin, of Atlanta, Georgia, sends me an article "for the little folks" on rabbits; but as this is not a children's page I am sorry to say I cannot use it. He also offers me poetry, but as we do not use poetry I must decline that also with thanks. I hope he will try us again soon with something we can use.

Our next letter is from an Ohio cousin, giving us a peep at the city of Columbus. She says:

"The city of Columbus, Ohio, was named for the great discoverer, Christopher Columbus, and is the only large city in the United States bearing his name. The streets are wide, well-lighted, and many of them are paved with either brick, stone or asphalt. But let us hie away to the parks. Not the little ones that are scattered here and there over the city, but real, carefully kept public grounds. First is Franklin Park, situated in the extreme eastern part of the city. As we enter the northwestern gate we find a cosy home for the caretaker. The western half contains large trees, with seats, tables, swings, etc. The lake and boat-house also belong to this part. Nearly in the center stands an immense greenhouse, which furnishes all the summer plants for the park, and many others for private decorations in winter. The eastern part of this park is new; the trees are small but the driveways are carefully kept. The Southern Park is given up to the use of the Germans.

"The one most popular for all classes is situated in the northern limit of the city. Nature has been lavish in beautifying its grounds and art has aided. A stream of water passes through the western side and is embanked by high hills on one side and a beautiful wooded valley on the other which in early spring is strewn with golden buttercups and dainty violets.

"The park rejoices in the Indian name of Olentangy, as the Olentangy tribe had their home at one time on the banks of this stream. Their chief, 'Cornstalk', fished, trapped and hunted in the vicinity, while the faithful squaw found the fertile valley suitable for all domestic gardening. We can be entertained here afternoons and evenings in the theater, the merry-go-round, rowing on the river, or racing up and down the stream in the little steam tug. Refreshments are obtainable at all hours. Crowds of pleasure seekers are to be found here from early morning until closing time, every day in the week.

S. A. SMITH, Columbus, O.

Here is a very interesting account of a visit to Niagara Falls written by a cousin who lives in a region which most people consider "the wilds of Maine." By the way, I wish our cousin, John Erickson, would write us some description of the country in which he lives and the occupations of the people. I am sure we should enjoy such a letter.

"I had occasion, last March, to visit the Invalids' Hotel of Buffalo, N. Y., of which Dr. R. V. Pierce is the proprietor, and can truthfully say it is all that they advertise. While there I visited the wonder of the world, Niagara Falls. Our way took us along the shore of historic Lake Erie and on through the fertile valley of the Niagara river. On either side large orchards of apple, pear and plum trees and large vineyards testified to the fertility of this region. On our arrival at the city of Niagara we proceeded at once toward the falls whose roar filled our ears. A hackman carried us over on Goat Island which is situated between the two falls. Here we ascended a long flight of stairs to the edge of the American falls, where there are stands surrounded by iron railings for the accommodation of visitors, and I shall never forget the magnificent sight which I enjoyed while standing there on the very edge of the precipice looking down into that fearful abyss of wildly churning, leaping water, whose spray rose over one hundred feet in the air and descended in showers upon us, while through it rainbows flashed in brilliant colors.

"We crossed Goat Island and viewed the Horseshoe falls, which are shaped like a gigantic horseshoe. Seven times as much water flows over the Horseshoe falls as over the American falls, though the latter are four feet higher. Imagine a stream of water forty feet deep and nearly a mile in width, leaping one hundred and sixty feet in one mighty plunge, causing the very ground to tremble. We also crossed the little bridges to the Three Sisters Islands. They are only large masses of rock above the falls, but Goat Island is covered with beautiful elm, maple and beech trees. We crossed the suspension bridge below the falls and viewed them from the Canada side, then we went a mile down the river and visited the battlefield of Lundy's Lane, but found only a ploughed field and some elms growing on the ground made rich by the blood of many an American and English hero who met in deadly conflict on these green slopes on the fifth day of July, 1814." JOHN ERICKSON,
Number One, Aroostook Co., Maine.

Now for a peep at scenery in old Virginia.

"One of the most interesting points which Virginia offers to the tourist is the Peaks of Otter, two beautiful twin peaks, three thousand nine hundred and ninety-three feet high, situated in the Blue Ridge mountains in Bedford County, Virginia. Although these mountains have a good many elevated points, commanding fine views, yet the Peaks of Otter are the most famous and generally visited of them all; and although the view is said to be as fine from one of these peaks as from the other, yet travellers have fallen into the habit of going exclusively to one, possibly because its ascent may be somewhat the easier. The summit



PEAKS OF OTTER.

of this peak commands a view of such extent and magnificence as can scarcely be surpassed in the whole world, not even by the famous Rigi, or the Jungfrau. It is considered particularly desirable to see this view at sunrise, hence travellers generally make their arrangements with this aim, spending the preceding night at a house at the foot of the mountain, or on the side, and rising at daybreak to make the ascent. They can go about two-thirds of the way on horseback, or in a vehicle, but as they near the summit of the mountain, they begin to encounter great boulders, so they are forced to dismount and toil up the remainder of the way on foot.

"'Laborious, indeed, at first ascent, but else so smooth, so green, so full of goodly prospects and harmonious sounds that the harp of Eolus itself was not more charming.'

"A large boulder crowns the very summit of the mountain, and climbing up this, the traveller beholds stretched out before him a view vast and grand as the boundless ocean and far more diversified. Great forests, interspersed with meadows and stretches of cultivated land, little towns and villages, ranges of hills and other mountains, silvery streams meandering through the landscape, all these lie extended before him like a vast and splendid panorama, and giving him glimpses of three or four states.

"A legend is told that on one occasion, long ago, a party of frolicsome young college students, visiting the peaks, conceived the idea of rolling a boulder down the mountain, and that at length they got it started, and it rolled down with a tremendous and ever increasing impetus, uprooting great forest trees in its path, and cutting a deeper and deeper channel for itself in its downward course, till at length it settled a little beyond the foot of the mountain."

MARY W. EARLY, Lynchburg, Va.

I have a pleasant letter on the Natural Bridge in Virginia written by J. W. Robinette, for which I thank him, but which I cannot use because the subject has been so often written up. I also thank Edwin Brown for a letter on the Natural Bridge of Kentucky.

A very well written letter from our old friend and cousin, Mrs. E. J. Britton, of Omaha, Nebraska, cannot be used, I am sorry to say, because I have recently published several accounts of cyclones. I also have a pleasant letter by Charles Honeg on a trip to Springfield, Illinois.

"We are nestled down on the Ohio river forty-eight miles south of Wheeling, between two ranges of high hills, one range in Ohio and the other in West Virginia. The Ohio river at this point is not more than a block in width and we are so surrounded by hills that we can scarcely see a mile in any direction except overhead. We have a large pumping station here which pumps the oil from the surrounding country in two large tanks holding thirty-five and forty thousand barrels each; thence it goes to Pennsylvania to a refinery.

"During an electric storm the other evening lightning struck one thirty-five thousand barrel tank which contained fifteen thousand barrels; a terrific explosion followed, and column after column of dense black smoke arose and hung over the city like a cloud, while now and then a tongue of flame shot up and was reflected in the clouds. Some oil was saved by draining, but most of it was burned.

"Let me describe to the cousins how we build a country house in the oil regions. First, we get some lumber for the foundation; saw off four pieces and stand on end, then lay other lumber from corner to corner and nail. Next we take rough hemlock and nail two pieces together like a trough, and stand this up for our corner; after we have four of those we take a ladder, if we cannot reach, and nail a plate from one to the other on top. Then we fill in the sides with rough hemlock, and then come the rafters and roof. Some of the roofs are of tar paper, but most are shingles. Now we have a huge box with a roof; and we proceed to cut out holes for doors and windows, and weather board it and then run our partitions, which are rough hemlock boards, put in our doors and windows, build a porch and put on trimming. For the plaster we get unbleached muslin, sew together and stretch tight for ceiling, then we tack it all over the walls, then we paper, and the result is a nice cozy house without laths, plaster, or studding. Some have joists or sills across the top, and some only have a piece to tack muslin on, and a few pieces to nail the partition to, but with gas for fuel we are as comfortable as can be and as happy as if we lived in elegant mansions." MRS. F. R. SHURTE,
Sistersville, W. Va.

The next letter I find very interesting, and think my readers will also enjoy it.

"I would like to tell your readers about a journey I once made across the Sioux reservation. After driving all day through a hilly, sandy country we stopped at a log cabin whose owner was a 'squaw-man,' that is, a white man who had married a squaw. There are a number of these squaw-men in the Sioux reservation. The cabin was of good size, all in one room, with a ground floor. A stove, table, and two iron bedsteads curtained off in the back part comprised the furniture of this home in the wilderness.

"Our hostess would not say one word to us for fear we would laugh at her broken speech, although she could understand us. She was a good cook, however, and served us at breakfast, next morning with fried eggs, ham, nice bread and butter and good coffee. As soon as the meal was over we hitched up our ponies and were soon on our way through that far-stretching, streamless, verdureless plain. That night we lodged in the open prairie, and were disturbed by nothing but a few howling coyotes, which, however, did not come near enough to keep us long awake.

"All next day we drove on without seeing a house, tree or living soul, and at dark reached the Missouri river; a light ahead led us to a cabin similar to the one where we stayed the first night, only this time our squaw-man was a widower, his squaw having been dead several years and his children being away at school. He told us we had taken the wrong road; we should have gone twenty miles further south, where there was a ferry boat. As it was late we concluded to stay there all night.

"Early next morning, while we were preparing our breakfast our widower surprised us with a plateful of boiled beaver meat which he said was a great Indian delicacy, but good enough for anybody. We found it tasted like beef tongue, and if we had not known what it was we could have eaten it all and wanted more.

"Our first step at starting was to get across the river which was here quite deep and half a mile wide. Mr. Buschall had a boat that would hold about ten people, so we took our buggy apart and took it over, led the horses into the water and let them swim across, and then we were once more in a civilized land. RAY HENZLIK, Lone Tree, Iowa.

And now good-by until April calls us together once more. AUNT MINERVA.

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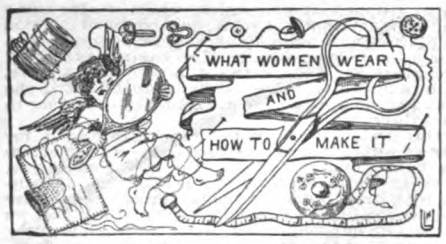


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A SILLY fad in dressing the hair has the part on the left side, and brought in a loop across the forehead. It is then gathered in a wavy mass upon the top of the head where it is held by a big shell comb, which serves to tip the hat well over the face, an aid the Spring millinery seems to require, especially the large flat turbans which would otherwise look most ordinary and dowdy. The home milliner must find the style of hat quite simple to make, especially if the frame itself be of coarse straw, so decorative in itself as to require little trimming. A smart turban has its rolling brim draped with a figured black lace veil, the ends tied in a small knot at the back, exactly as if worn for use instead of mere beauty. Around the low crown is a wreath, as it were, of tucked black mousseline de soie, the tucks being about half an inch in width and as close together as they can possibly be set, the threads all evenly drawn so that instead of flat tucks, they present a shirred mass impossible to describe. This is crushed down in front by means of a handsome buckle. Entire hats of this shape are made up of shirred tulle and chiffon so rich in themselves as to require little in the way of decoration.

For rainy day wear there are any number of sensible rigs being worn, among which is one I have especially admired because of its graceful lines as well as its utility for both early Spring and mid-summer wear. It is built of light weight cravenette, in black, the skirt reaching to within an inch or two of the ankles and cut in circular fashion with a broad sweep at the bottom; very free and easy towalk in. Several rows of stitching finish it smartly. The short box coat is double-breasted and fastened with large pearl buttons, four in number. The sleeves are small but easily fitted so as to give play to the arm, in fact the whole rig is built with a view to comfort. With it is worn a round felt hat of black over which a veil can easily be arranged.

The length of all outing skirts for the coming season is considerably longer than usual. Four inches from the ground is the approved length which is just four inches longer than we have been accustomed to, a fact which shows we are influenced by the English fashions to a certain extent.

An unusually up-to-date blouse is made of black taffeta, in spencer style having no yoke, and with but little fullness at the waist, back and front. The entire waist is laid in the tiniest of pin-tucks an inch apart, each stitched heavily with white silk. At the opening in the front is inserted a bit of gorgeous Panne velvet, giving the appearance of a tiny vest, while at either side are arranged the smallest of brass buttons in groups, five at the top and one at the bottom. This, with a satin crushed belt, and a white satin stock drawn through silver rings at the front and tied with narrow scarlet velvet go to make up a stunning bit of finery. The same young woman who designed this waist has built herself another more elaborate garment for theater wear composed of snow white broadcloth and white satin, which is worn with a stunning skirt of palest tan broadcloth, tucked all over, commencing with the finest pin-tucks at the front, gradually widening until the box-pleat at the back is reached.

Many of the new skirts made with a circular flounce have the drop skirt from the flounce only; this latter being of silk while the upper skirt is lined with percaline.

Pleated skirts are especially adapted to the soft silks and Liberty satins so much in vogue. I saw a smart little frock of claret red taffeta, (the pattern a coral design running all over it,) the narrow skirt trimmed fluffily at the bottom with three rows of accordion pleated flounces, laid closely over one another, and lifted slightly at the sides to give the effect of a tunic. The round bodice was softly fulled at the waist, both back and front, and opened widely across the breast with a finish of wide



revers in sailor collar effect finished with an edging of point de' sprit and three rows of white velvet ribbon set on in small scallops. A soft scarf of the point de' sprit crossed the breast under the revers and was tied at the left in a big soft bow. The guimpe showing only at the front is made of point de' sprit laid in



tiny tucks. It is a gown built on extremely simple lines yet it is wonderfully effective.

Gruesome tales of murder by means of the innocent-looking hat pin will gradually diminish now that the French have invented a new means of adjusting one's hat securely. The new arrangement, which by the way is called a fixette, consists of two little four-pronged forks, slid into guides. These guides are securely sewn to the inside of the hat, on the edge, one on each side. Before placing the hat on the head the fixettes are drawn out to the fullest extent, and when the hat is in position, they are pushed in, fastening the hat in the hair.

No lady's jewel box is complete without the high comb for the back of the hair, either of tortoise or silver richly set with real jewels; a combination of turquoise and diamonds being much in favor.

One of New York's swellest dressmakers assures me there is no more durable sort of



material for a "best" black dress than net, much as we may be persuaded to the contrary. It is certainly a good material with which to freshen an old black silk, using it for the foundation.

Baby ribbon velvet in colors as well as in black is seen on all the newest gowns and is always an effective trimming.

A sweetly pretty gown of green and white taffeta has accordion pleated frills of white bordered and headed with rows of black velvet.

There is a fancy for numerous little flat collars on cloth gowns, overlapping each other, and all very nearly the same width.

High heels obtain for all dress occasions; especially is this a fact with the Oxford tie. The low flat heel is correct for all ordinary wear and is the only safe thing for weak ankles. The demand for rubber heels is increasing daily. They have proved a great blessing to mankind and make walking a positive joy. They are easily adjusted to the shoe-heel.

A new Eton jacket has its seams outlined with inch wide straps of the goods, pointed on both ends, the lower end extending an inch below the edge of the coat.

A novelty to accompany the new pleated skirt is in the form of knickerbockers that fit closely about the hips, and are covered with ruffles placed one above the other to within seven inches of the waist line. Made up in ponge or china silk they are suitable for the dark colored summer garment, and may be trimmed alternately with flounces of silk and lace if a dressy effect is desired.

The return of the earring so long predicted has at last become a fact, and we now observe their use is almost universal. At present the one permissible form for this ornament is the "screw," always a solitary stone, diamond, pearl or turquoise, the latter often surrounded with small diamonds. Once in a while is seen an earring having two stones, one suspended from the other by means of the old-fashioned wire catch, but they are rare, and not likely to obtain favor.

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Anyone writing to Prof. S. A. Weltmer, Nevada, Mo., will receive free of charge a 40-page illustrated magazine and a list of testimonials from men and women who owe their health and happiness to Weltmerism; also, much information on this science of healing.

Teaches His Method to Others.

The method of Magnetic Healing (Weltmerism), while a mysterious force, is at the same time a natural one, it is a power lying dormant in every human being brought into the world, and only needs to be brought to the surface. Prof. S. A. Weltmer in an interview stated that anyone who wished could learn this grand profession, and any one who learns it can practice it. This has been abundantly proven by the many students of the American School of Magnetic Healing, of which Prof. S. A. Weltmer is President; and Prof. J. H. Kelly is Sec'y, for students of this school are now practicing with grand success, the healing art, through Weltmerism. It can be said without hesitancy that this is the best paying profession of the age for the students who are now practicing, report that they are earning from $20 to $50 per day; this is not strange, when one considers that disease is the greatest enemy of the human race. It is a foe to success, happiness and contentment, and this wonderful power, known as Weltmerism, dispels disease and vanquishes this foe without the aid of either medicine or the surgeon's knife; and then again, all other professions are overcrowded, while it is impossible to overcrowd a profession that cures disease, especially when statistics tell us that over eighty per cent. of the human race are suffering from diseases of every nature. Prof. S. A. Weltmer is very anxious to have others take up his noble profession and assist him in his grand work, for his method of healing has now become so famous that he must call upon others to assist him; he will, therefore, teach his method of Magnetic Healing, known as Weltmerism to any man or woman who will write him. He will teach them by mail or personal instructions, he makes the statement that a student becomes as efficient in the curing power as himself in ten days time. Any one who wishes to take advantage of this grand offer and become possessed of not only the grandest, but at the same time the best paying profession of the age, can do so by addressing Prof. J. H. Kelly, Sec'y, Nevada, Mo., who will send you full instructions free of charge.



PROF. KELLY Sec'y and Treas.

How Sugar is Made from Trees.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



THE first white settlers landed on the bleak shores of New England in December. When the warm days of the next spring began to melt the snow which covered the ground, the new comers discovered, among many other strange things about this wild country, that the native Indians had a way of making sugar from the trees of the forest. This art the white men soon learned from the red men, and their descendants in New England, Canada, and almost all of the northern United States have followed it to this day.

The Indians hacked the bark of the maple trees with their axes, and caught the sap which bled from the cuts in rude wooden troughs. This sap they boiled until it thickened into sugar and then they stored it in little baskets of birch bark. The product was scanty and dark in color. The white men have changed the process and utensils by many ingenious inventions, so that the product has been improved in quality and the crop increased in quantity, until now the annual yield is hundreds of thousands of tons. In two respects, though, white men and red men have worked on equal terms. No tree but the maple has been found to yield sugar sap, and this sap will run only when the conditions of climate and weather are favorable.

The sugar maple tree grows to the best advantage in northern New England and Lower Canada. The best flow of sap will not be found so far south that the ground is not covered with snow throughout the winter. With the first warm days of February and March, as the snow begins to soften beneath the more direct rays of the sun, the sap in the maples begins to flow from the roots to the branches, on which the buds will soon be swelling.

The largest sugar orchards are usually back on the sides of the mountains, where the first growth of trees has not been cut. The maple trees in such a forest are often well towards a hundred feet tall, of enormous girth, and with their huge trunks extending far up among the tops of the other trees before they begin to branch. Other orchards of what are called "second growth" trees have sprung up in the pastures, nearer the villages, and these, although the trees are not nearly so large, are quite as productive, since the easier access to the sunlight which they afford seems to make the sap sweeter and more plentiful.

The sugar maker's work begins with shoveling out the road into the sugar place, for often at that time of the year the snow will be four feet deep there. The snow must also be shoveled off from the roof of the sugar house, and away from the door, so that an entrance can be made. The sugar house is a small, wooden building, placed nearly in the center of the sugar place. In it is a large brick arch, and there will also be stored the buckets and other necessary utensils. A fair sized sugar orchard will contain five hundred trees, scattered over about twenty acres of ground. More than five hundred buckets will be required for that number of trees, since two buckets can be placed at each of the largest trees. The buckets are made of wood or tin and hold about four gallons each.



SUGAR WOODS.

Two or three men will work together in a sugar camp, for after the work has commenced it is often necessary for the pans to be kept boiling night and day. This is because the sap will sour and spoil if allowed to stand for many hours after being gathered. The man who boils nights sleeps days on a bed of hemlock boughs in one corner of the sugar house, and his companions who work during the day, occupy the same bed at night. After the run fairly begins the men rarely go home, except for food, especially if they are working in one of the more distant mountain sugar places. It is a life with all the charm and invigoration of camping out. Potatoes are baked in the ashes before the arch, and meat broiled on a crotched stick held out before the glowing fire of wood. Tea and coffee made from maple sap are just sweet enough to be palatable, and eggs can be boiled in a tin pail hung by a string from a rafter to a level where it will just swing in the boiling, bubbling sap in the pan. The air of the sunny mornings is heavy with the moisture of the melting snow. At night the stars shine through a tracery of branches, and the frost stiffens the soft snow into a crust stout enough to bear a man. In mountain orchards the owls hoot at night their calls and answers to one another, and sometimes the ugly scream of a lynx is heard far off in the darkness. If there comes a light fall of snow in the night, the men, when they first go out in the morning may sometimes find the tracks of a bear.

The trees are tapped by boring a half-inch hole through the bark, to a depth of about an inch into the live wood. A small, tubular, metal spout is driven into the hole and through this the sap flows into the buckets, hung either from the spout or from a nail driven into the tree. There are now many different kinds of spouts and fastenings, but this description explains the general principles. Some buckets have movable covers to keep out the dirt, mice and squirrels, for these small animals as well as raccoons and bears have a sweet tooth which makes them active in the sugar place. Mice and squirrels usually get drowned in the sap, if there is enough in the bucket: bears will often knock down the buckets from a dozen trees.

The sap falls a drop at a time. It flows fastest on a sunny morning after a sharp frost the night before. Sometimes it will stop running almost entirely for days at a time, and as the snow melts and the warm days of spring come it ceases. As the sugar-makers say, "The trees dry up."

If the snow is very deep when sugaring begins the men are obliged to work on snow shoes, bringing all the sap to the sugar house in two pails, suspended one at each end of a wooden "sap-yoke" worn across the shoulders. It requires no small degree of skill to carry such a load down a steep mountain side, through underbrush, and over treacherous snow into which even a snow shoe may sink at any minute. As the snow melts, roads are broken out among the trees and a steady horse drags a rude sled on which is chained a big "draw-tub." The sap is poured into this tub and drawn to the sugar house, where it is transferred to "holders" in which it is stored until it can be boiled. A blazing fire of wood is kept roaring in the arch. On the arch will be a "heater", a capacious tank of tin or iron, and a broad, shallow iron pan. The cold sap is first put into the "heater." As soon as it is brought to the boiling point it is drawn into the pan, the broad surface of which rapidly hastens evaporation. Half a day's boiling brings the contents of the pan, which have been frequently replenished from the heater, down to the consistency of thick syrup. This is removed and set aside to cool and settle. The settling process will often deposit at the bottom of a tub containing several gallons of syrup, as many pints of a minutely fine, brown sediment called "nitre," or "sugar sand." Where this comes from no one knows, but its origin is not half so mysterious as the fact that on some years this foreign substance will be absolutely wanting, while again, from the very same trees, with exactly the same treatment, quarts of it will be present.

Much of the product of the orchards is marketed and eaten as syrup, an average price being one dollar a gallon. If sugar is to be made, the syrup, cooled and settled, is put back into the pan for another boiling. It is necessary to watch the fire more closely now, as the thicker the contents of the pan become the more likely it is to scorch. It is also apt to boil up and run over the sides of the pan, but if it threatens to do this a few drops of sweet cream sprinkled into the golden mass breaks the cohesiveness of the bubbles and the mass settles back to its proper level. The sugar maker takes a birch branch and ties a knot in the slender end of the twig. When he wants to know if the sugar is "done enough" he dips the end of the twig into the boiling contents of the pan and blows quickly through the knot. If the film of sugar which adhered to the opening flies out in a string of golden bubbles he knows that the sugar has boiled long enough. The pan is removed from the arch and the contents poured into tin or wooden buckets. Although still a boiling hot liquid, the sugar hardens as it cools until it becomes a rich brown, granular mass, delicious to eat, and convenient and wholesome to use for sweetening food. Maple sugar sells for from fifteen to five cents a pound, depending upon quality and the earliness with which it can be put upon the market. The amount made varies greatly from year to year. An orchard of five hundred trees ought to yield a crop worth from fifty dollars to one hundred and fifty dollars. The annual yield of the Northern United States and Canada is worth hundreds of thousands of dollars.

The Chinese are said to have used clocks 800 years before the Christian era.

A WORD TO ADVERTISERS.

Many advertisers get discouraged attempting the placing of their own advertisements. They forget that there is an infinite amount of detail work when they first order and it soon becomes too burdensome to give a proper amount of attention to the regular routine of business. All this care and much money may be saved by putting the whole advertising business in the hands of experts who make it a business to know how and what to do in advertising. The agency of Nelson Chesman & Co., St. Louis, Mo., has had twenty-five years' experience and has been the foundation of success in the life of many advertisers, who have had the good sense to appreciate the greater value of expert work over their own amateur efforts. Every advertiser should write them on this subject.

$500.00 IN GOLD FREE.

E	O	W	A
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HERE is a chance to use your **Brains** and **Win $500.00 in Gold.** We want you to try and arrange these 20 jumbled letters printed in the block square to the left which properly arranged will spell the names of 3 large cities in the **World,** two of these cities being in the United States, the other one being a Mexican City. In making the 3 names the letters can only be used as many times as they appear and no letter can be used which does not appear. After you have found the 3 correct names you will have used every letter in the 20 exactly as many times as it appears. If you cannot find the 3 correct names but only find 2, you will receive a special prize for your trouble worth $1. **If you answer this puzzle at once you will not be disappointed.** Some one is going to win the money and it may be you. **Anyway it does not cost you any money to try.** All we ask is that should you be a successful contestant that you will secure for us one yearly subscriber to our Handsome Illustrated Monthly Magazine. This we can truthfully say is the very hardest puzzle ever advertised, so get out your Geography and look for these 3 cities. The correct names are only known to the President of this Company. The envelope containing the three names has been sealed and deposited with a leading Banking Co. in Boston, and will only be opened the day after the contest closes, April 26th. This we believe is the only honest way of conducting a contest, as everyone has an equal chance. In case more than one person succeeds in finding the three correct names we will divide the money equally. In addition to the $500.00 in gold we will give you an opportunity to **Win**

$5.00 A WEEK FOR LIFE FREE

-- OR --

$250.00 A YEAR FOR LIFE FREE

WITHOUT ANY LABOR OR EXPENSE.

We are going to give to some one who has entered this contest and who complies with the conditions as stated above an opportunity to **win** and **secure** from us without any labor or expense on their part **$5 every week during their natural life.** We mean just what we say. There is no deception and no trickery about this offer. **If you are the lucky one, and we hope you are, for some one will get it, we will send the winner every week during their natural life $5, or else $250 every year in advance for life, whichever way they prefer.** Do not throw this contest aside and say, Oh, pshaw! I have answered puzzles before and never got anything, or else only secured a few cents for my trouble, for if you do this you will regret it as long as you live. Someone is going to win the money, and it may be you. No one can tell, anyway **it does not cost you one cent,** as we do not want any money from you. Are the prizes worth trying for? We think they are, for $5 a week paid to you for life will keep one from the Poorhouse, and to those who have a small income, it will supply them with many a necessity which one has to do without in these hard times. Of course we are strangers to you, and you have no assurance except our word that we are financially able to carry out the promises we make. If you have the least doubt, we would be pleased to have you look us up. We are a responsible company, with a **paid up capital of one hundred thousand dollars,** composed of honorable and well known business men of Boston. We want to secure a large list of subscribers to our Magazine, and will leave no stone unturned to accomplish by honest methods only, our object. Every one entering this contest will receive honest treatment, and you will have the same chance whether you live in California or Massachusetts. Distance makes no difference. After you have carefully arranged the twenty jumbled letters into the three cities which you think are right, send your answer to us at once, enclosing a two-cent stamp for reply and you will immediately receive an answer telling you whether you are a successful contestant, and we will also send you full particulars how you can win $5 a week for life. Don't delay as this is positively the last time this advertisement will appear in this paper.

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We Defy the World

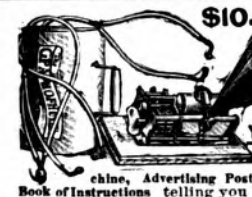
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$35 "Arlington" $16.50
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You can learn in one hour, by printed instructions, to tell your fortune, and others, with the world-famed ZENOBA (Queen of Gypsies) fortune-telling cards. Each playing-card has its meaning printed upon its face. Amusing, interesting, sensational, instructive and profitable. Mailed sealed for 54 cents in stamps.
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Long Live OXIEN, the King of Remedies that Killed it.

No more infernal tortures, no more roastings of the flesh with red hot irons, no more lightning shocks from the electric battery or dosings with dangerous drugs.

RHEUMATISM HAS BEEN CONQUERED by **Oxien** the **triumph** of **medicine,** the **Godsend** of the **age.** Absolute cures are now certain, and **Oxien** is **making them every day.** In this connection

WE HAVE A WORD TO SAY.

Oxien was last year put to the test as a remedy for **Rheumatism** and it made a record of absolute cures in **Acute Rheumatism,** frequently called rheumatic fever, **Pericarditis** (inflammation of the investing membrane of the heart), **Endocarditis** (inflammation of the living membrane of the heart), **subacute rheumatism,** sometimes applied to the less severe attacks of the disease, **chronic rheumatism,** which swells and twists the joints and **sciatica,** or neuralgia of the sciatic nerve. In fact Oxien is guaranteed to cure Rheumatism in any form. Thousands jump for joy and many write as follows:

Received OXIEN O. K. Found it far superior to what you represent. Have tried everything I could hear of for rheumatism. For ten years I have been crippled up with this terrible disease. Laid in bed one whole year. Could not turn or feed myself and when I was able to walk on crutches (which I did for four years) was crooked and unable to straighten up, but **Oxien did it** *and you can imagine how happy I am now. Yours sincerely, Geo. F. Lawton, Olympia, Wash., Feby. 9th, 1898.*

FREE 200,000 BOXES OF RHEUMATISM CURE. **FREE.**

This momentous offer we make in order to more thoroughly introduce this **amazing rheumatism remedy** in the United States and Canada. None but those who will give us their word that they either suffer from rheumatism, or are afraid of it through hereditary tendencies will be considered entitled to free treatment. Therefore, if you want **a box free** send at once, yes to-day. Write plainly as our clerks are badly rushed.

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ONE MILLION TWO HUNDRED AND FIFTY THOUSAND COPIES, Each and Every Issue,
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A suggestive bit of news is found in the statement of the sale of the original manuscript of Kipling's poem "The Absent Minded Beggar." This was written to aid the wives and children of the soldiers ordered to South Africa. Mr. Beecham of England has paid $521 for the manuscript. His name is well known to all newspaper readers in connection with a famous patent medicine. Pills, poetry and philanthropy are a peculiar combination in fact as well as alliteration, but the three "p's" seem to meet through Mr. Beecham's act.

The well-known English dramatic critic Clement Scott wears a gold bracelet very much in evidence upon his left wrist. Men of the Latin races adorn themselves with jewelry that seems exclusively feminine and wear an ear ring or a bracelet for seeming love of display. With us of the Anglo-Saxon race such a display always presents two possibilities. We either suspect a peculiar mental twist or the possibility of a romance. When a plain middle aged Englishman, who seems the personification of common sense startles us in this way, we waver between a verdict of personal vanity or of hidden romance. It is much more entertaining to think that the bracelet is a keepsake with a history, for romance not ashamed to show its record of a capacity for feeling is rare enough in this prosaic age. The other possibility for such display shows such a trivial side to a man that the curiosity that the novel adornment excites develops into mirth at the mental gauge of a man who finds bracelet wearing his only hold upon public attention.

The unwritten side to the Boer war and the war in the Philippines is the side of the women who wait with silent unspoken dread for "news from the front." The tragedies of waiting and of strained expectation of heart-breaking news are too real to be expressed volubly. Mrs. Julia Ward Howe appreciated this to the full. The woman who could write the glorious swinging jubilant lines of the Battle Hymn of the Republic could also appreciate what war means to women. Her most ambitious work was the proposal to call a congress of the representative women of the world—in the interest of discouraging war. The congress never met but the credit for the idea lies with the woman whose name is associated with one of the most famous war poems. The English poems relating to the Boer war indicate two things—First, a wholesome admiration of the stubborn bravery of the little Dutch republic shown in hundreds of poems, and secondly a feeling that the prophecy of Kipling's Recessional is being realized in the sternest manner.

The movement toward building a memorial arch to the Navy has aroused a fresh interest in our naval heroes. One outcome has been the wish to bring to America the body of our first naval hero John Paul Jones. His story is a stirring romance, full of wild adventure; he was the first to raise our flag, the Stars and Stripes, over a craft that was launched in the waters of the Delaware. His daring conquests when he commanded the *Bonhomme Richard* are matters of well-known history. He died in Paris in semi-obscurity and the knowledge of his last resting place has been lost for years. Recent investigations have fixed the place without the shadow of a doubt. It is a fitting and gracious recognition of his service to the nation to bring home his ashes to the land that he helped make great. We have won great distinction through the navy but John Paul Jones was the pioneer in our victories by sea.

It is an old proverb that republics are ungrateful but fulfillment of this purpose would go far to disprove the truth of the statement. By all means let us bring the body of our victorious naval commander to rest in the land he fought for so bravely.

Occasionally the people of America give evidence of the fact that all sense of beauty is not lost in a struggle for wealth. The many critics of our manners and our ideals continually assert that we are purely commercial and mercenary. One of the best arguments against this idea is the growing purpose to preserve historic buildings, mark historic sites and preserve natural beauties. All readers of our daily papers are aware of the growth of this sort of interest. No one project of the many in this line has met with warmer support than the attempt to save the beautiful Palisades of the Hudson from total destruction by a company of contractors who are blasting the rocks into oblivion. The club women of New Jersey have kept up a constant agitation in the subject. A commission urges that the land be made into a National park and placed under Federal jurisdiction. New York will be asked to contribute a large sum while the state of New Jersey does the same to compensate private property owners. The project should meet with universal acceptance, for the Palisades are an old historic landmark as well as a piece of majestic scenery.

It is a trite saying that history repeats itself. We become so accustomed to the idea that we fail to realize its truth and force until some definite illustration is given. Away back in the reign of George II. the ideas of speculation seemed to develop. France had a wild scheme known as the Law plan by which fortunes were to be made in a minute. England had its South Sea Bubble in which shares in a slave selling project rose in a few days from $500 to $5000. Hundreds of similar schemes developed from making butter from beechnuts to selling shares in a company the object of which was to be disclosed later. Of course the crash came in each instance. We smile patronizingly at the credulity of the victims and yet we find practical proof of the fact that history repeats itself because human nature does not alter. In Brooklyn a concern called the Franklin Syndicate promised to pay a dollar a week interest on sums of ten dollars and over. This was a rate of 520 per cent. a year. Did the shrewd people at the century's end show any better common sense than those of the earlier days? No, they flocked to the offices and deposited their wealth in sums from dollars to thousands. They even scorned the investigation by postal authorities and police. The old story of credulity and greed was repeated over and over again. Millions passed into the hands of the head of the "Syndicate" and history repeated itself. The bubble burst. Humanity has progressed greatly during the century. Improvements and inventions have changed the aspect of the world. The one unchanged thing is human nature and it is that human nature that causes history to repeat itself.

One is sometimes led to wonder what peculiar conditions produce the statistical mind. We are all familiar with paragraphs like the following: "The quantity of beer consumed annually throughout the world would form a lake three and three-quarters miles long, one mile wide and six feet deep and would have a commercial valuation of one billion and eighty millions dollars." Now what must be the mental characteristics of a man who will spend some hundreds of the precious minutes between the cradle and the grave in such intellectual gymnastics as that! If he were a human lightning calculating machine he might get the cold facts in figures of the annual consumption of beer or the size of the vault that would hold the Vanderbilt wealth in bullion. He might give facts and figures in regard to a thousand and one things that can be measured in arithmetical terms. But no, this statistical fiend must mix fancy with his facts and figures and summon up weird nightmares by the grotesque pranks that his fancy plays with his figures. He tells us that the oysters consumed in New York in one week laid end to end would reach around the world. Not content with this slippery circling of the globe with bivalves he contemplates the problem of the length of time it would take a man to swallow this equator of eatables. He deduces the figures that if the man swallowed two a minute it would take him until he was one hundred years old to dispose of the globe circling oysters. There seems to be a conspiracy among the newspapers to encourage this maddening process by using the paragraphs to fill in stray space. So whether one wishes it or not he finds himself the possessor of some such quaint and curious production of integers and imagination. The effect on the human mind is disintegrating. There is a strong temptation to verify the figures or else there is a haunting wish to indulge in idle speculation as to the facts and fancy of anything that will lend itself to figures. On the whole the statistical mind is probably an intensely egotistical one. It is the desire to astonish someone; to hear wonder expressed that a fact may be so curious; it is this that leads these imaginative arithmetical fiends to render life a burden to casual readers.



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GOOD ASSORTMENT up to $18.00. We send them to anyone, to be paid for after received, tried on and found perfect in fit and entirely satisfactory; a class of fine tailoring possessing a distinctiveness in Style, Workmanship, Finish and Fit seldom found outside of the most fashionable city tailoring establishments. FOR SAMPLES OF CLOTH of our ENTIRE LINE of CUSTOM TAILORING Suitings, Trouserings, Fancy Vestings, etc., also tape measure, fashion plate, plain, simple self-measurement blanks, cut this ad. out and send to us with 2-cent stamp to pay postage and COMPLETE OUTFIT WILL BE SENT TO YOU POSTPAID.

SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO., (Inc.) CHICAGO, ILL.

(Sears, Roebuck & Co. are thoroughly reliable.—Editor.)

LADIES TO DO PLAIN SEWING AT HOME; $1.50 a day; four months work guaranteed; send stamped addressed envelope for particulars. R. W. HUTTON & Co., Dept. 4, Philadelphia, Pa.

Thin People Colethia cures extreme leanness and makes MADE thin people plump in a natural healthful way. PLUMP. Every ingredient is health-giving and fat producing. Send $1 for package or 20c. for trial package and particulars to LEABEG CO., 154 Nassau St., New York.

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WE have made arrangements with one of the largest music houses of Boston to furnish our readers with ten pieces, full size, complete and unabridged Sheet Music for twenty-five cts. The quality of this sheet music is the very best. The composers' names are household words all over the continent. None but high-priced copyright pieces or the most popular reprints. It is printed on regular sheet-music paper, from new plates made from large, clear type—including colored titles—and is in every way first-class, and worthy of your home. 3,000,000 copies sold!

LIST OF THE PIECES OFFERED AT THIS TIME.

No.	PIANO OR ORGAN.	
165	American Liberty March	Cook
101	Ancients Abroad, March—Two Step	Cook
247	Artist's Life Waltzes	Strauss
181	Auld Lang Syne. Variations	Durkee
187	Austrian Songs. Op. 69, 1	Pacher
215	Battle of Waterloo. Descriptive	Anderson
179	Beauties of Paradise Waltz. 4 hands	Streabbog
227	Beautiful Blue Danube Waltzes	Strauss
65	Bells of Corneville. Potpourri	Elson
213	Black Hawk Waltzes	Walsh
221	Bluebird Echo Polka	Morrison
199	Boston Commandery March	Carter
109	Bridal March from Lohengrin	Wagner
229	Bryan and Sewall March	Noles
133	Cadences and Scales in all Keys	Czerny
1	Catherine Waltzes	Stroh
237	Cherokee Roses Waltz. 4 hands	Behr
145	Clayton (Adjutant) March—Two Step	Missud
217	Cleveland's March	Noles
81	Coming from the Races Galop	Wheeler
211	Corn Flower Waltzes	Coote, Jr
41	Crack Four March	Ashton
71	Crystal Dew Waltz	Durkee
235	Day Dawn Polka	Cook
163	Dewey's Grand Triumphal March	Marcel
117	Echoing Trumpets March	Noles
121	Electric Light Galop	Durkee
91	Estella, Air de Ballet. Very fine.	Robinson
107	Ethel Polka	Simons
155	Evergreen Waltz	Stoddard
231	Faust. Selections	Durkee
77	Fifth Nocturne	Leybach
233	Flirting in the Starlight. Waltz	Lasaide
239	Flower Song. Op. 39.	Lange
97	Fresh Life	Spindler
177	Frolic of the Frogs.	Watson
49	Full of Ginger. March Galop.	Nutting
183	Golden Rain. Nocturne	Cloy
147	Grand Commandery March—Two Step	Missud
53	Greeting of Spring, op. 21	Schultze
185	Her Bright Smile Haunts Me Still	Richards
173	Hobson of the Merrimac Waltzes	Jewell
139	Home, Sweet Home. Transcription	Slack
17	Impassioned Dream Waltzes	Rosas
153	Jenny Lind polka Four hands	Muller
157	Last Hope. Meditation	Gottschalk
195	Leap Year Schottische	Kahn
159	Lee's (Gen'l) "On to Cuba" galop	Durkee
249	Lohengrin. Selections	Durkee
141	London March—Two Step	Missua
99	Maiden's Prayer, The	Badarzewska
45	March Winds Galop	Mansfield
240	Martha Selections	Johnson
207	May Breezes. Four hands	Krug
225	McKinley and Hobart March	Turner
55	Memorial Day March	Hewitt
131	Monastery Bells. Nocturne	Wely
89	Morning Dew, op. 18	Smith
61	Morning Star Waltz	Zahn
201	Music Box, The. Caprice	Liebich
137	My Love Polka	Zichrer
125	My Old Kentucky Home. Variations	Cook
87	National Anthems of Eight Great Nations	
175	National Songs of America	Blake
135	Nightingale's Trill, op. 81	Kullak
123	Old Folks at Home. Transcription	Blake
171	Old Oaken Bucket, The. Variations	Durkee
219	On the Wave Waltz	Dinsmore
197	Oregon, Queen of the Sea. Two-step	Robinson
245	Orvetta Waltz	Spencer
9	Our Little Agnes. Waltz	Gregoire
191	Over the Waves Waltz	Rosas
79	Please Do Waltz	Durkee
193	Poet and Peasant Overture (Suppe)	Brunner
167	Red, White and Blue Forever. March	Blake
143	Richmond March—two-step	Missud
245	Rustic Waltz	Schumann
127	Rustling Leaves. Idylle	Lange
39	Ruth, Esther and Marion Schottische.	Cohen
149	Salem Witches March—Two-Step	Missud
189	Schubert's Serenade. Transcription	Liszt
161	Silvery Waves. Variations	Wyman
169	Smith's (General) March	Martin
31	Song of the Voyager	Paderewski
22	Souvenir March Song of 1895 K. T. Parade	Dow
95	Spirit Lake Waltz	Simons
151	Storm, The. Imitation of Nature	Weber
73	Storm Mazurka	Keefer
109	Sultan's Band March.	Brown
209	Sweet Long Ago. Transcription	Blake
115	Tornado Galop	Arbuckle
103	Trifet's Grand March, op. 182	Wedel
223	Twilight Echoes. Song without words	Jewell
113	Under the Double Eagle March	Wagner
129	Venetian Waltz	Ludovic
205	Village Parade Quickstep	Allen
7	Visions of Light. Waltz	Cook
203	Warblings at Eve	Richards
93	Waves of the Ocean March	Blake
59	Wedding March	Mendelssohn
85	Winsome Grace. A perfect gem.	Howe
119	Woodland Whispers Waltzes	Stanley
105	Zephyr Waltz.	Bragg

No.	VOICE AND PIANO OR ORGAN.	
236	Across the Bridge	Le Brunn
2	Annie's Love. Duet for Sop. and Ten.	Winter
27	Ave Maria, From Cavalleria Rusticana	Mascagni
140	Beacon Light of Home	Estabrooke
134	Beautiful Moonlight. Duet	Glover
238	Bells of Seville	H. Jude
162	Ben Bolt, of "Trilby" fame	Kneass
226	Blue Eyes	Elson
246	Boyhood Days, Chorus	Fritz
200	Bridge, The. Words by Longfellow	Carew
192	Can You, Sweetheart, Keep a Secret?	Estabrooke
122	Changeless	Trotere
214	Childhood's Happy Hours	Dinsmore
138	Christmas Carol	Turner
190	Come When the Soft Twilight Falls	Schumann
168	Coon's Breach of Promise. Cake walk	Blake
92	Cow Bells, The. Boyhood's Recollection	Grimm
176	Darling Nellie Gray	Hanby
70	Dear Heart, We're Growing Old	Estabrooke
128	Don't drink, my Boy, tonight. Temp.	Hoover
50	Easter Eve. Sacred	Gounod
220	Ever Sweet is Thy Memory	Bosfeld
19	'E Dunno Where 'E Are. Comic	Eplett
72	Ellaline. Waltz song	Betts
180	Far Away	Bliss
182	Father is Drinking Again. Temperance	
126	Far from the Hearthstone	Messer
152	Flag of Our Country. Patriotic	Mathiot
156	Flag, The. Quartette	Fox
144	Flirting in the Starlight	Delano
8	Flossie. Waltz Song	Cohen
138	For a Dream's Sake	Cowen
36	For the Colors. Patriotic	Wilson
66	For You We are Praying at Home	Estabrooke
166	From our Home the Loved are Going	Percy
202	Give a Kiss to Me	Percy
178	God Bless My Kind Old Mother	Jewell
204	Golden Moon	Iran
150	Gypsy Countess. Duet	Glover
198	Heart of My Heart	Robinson
184	I Can't Forget the Happy Past	Skelly
74	In Sweet September	Temple
248	In Shadowland	Pinsuti
188	In the Starlight. Duet	Glover
28	Juanita. Ballad	May
242	Kathleen Mavourneen	Crouch
196	Killarney	Balfe
132	Kiss me, but don't say goodbye	Rutledge
130	Kiss that bound my Heart to thine	Keil
164	Larboard Watch. Duet	Williams
146	Listen to the Mocking Bird	Hawthorne
48	Little Boy Blue. Solo or Duet	Estabrooke
154	Little Voices at the Door	Danks
96	Lost Chord, The	Sullivan
106	Lottie Bell	Gilbert
40	Love Ever Faithful	Bucalossi
68	Lovely Little Nellie Dwyer	Casey
25	Lurline, Do you think of me now?	Estabrooke
234	Margaretta	Balfe
112	Massa's Sleeping in de Churchyard	Keeler
230	Memories of my Mother. Chorus	Allen
30	Mission of a Rose, The. Song	Cowen
52	Mother's Cry, A. (Salvation Army)	Adriance
172	Mother's Welcome at the Door	Estabrooke
222	Musical Dialogue. Duet	Helmund
232	Must the Sweet Tie that binds	Estabrooke
76	My Home by the Old Mill	O'Halloran
110	My Little Lost Irene	Danks
170	My Old Kentucky Home	Foster
216	Oh, Sing Again that Gentle Strain.	Dinsmore
228	Old Folks at Home (Swanee Ribber)	Foster
60	Old Glory. National	Woods
102	Old Sexton, The	Russell
104	On the Banks of the Beautiful River	Estabrooke
90	On the Beach. Most beautiful ballad	Robinson
160	Outcast, An. Character Song	Fritz
174	Parted from our Dear Ones	Keller
100	Picture of My Mother, The	Skelly
148	Poor Girl didn't know. Comic.	Cooke
56	Precious Treasure. Song and Dance	Weiler
136	Request. Sacred	Grainger
208	Rocked in the Cradle of the Deep	Knight
142	Rosemonde	Chaminade
80	See Those Living Pictures	Guth
224	Shall I Ever See Mother's Face Again?	Adriance
194	She Sleeps among the Daisies	Dinsmore
124	Softly shine the Stars of Evening	Dinsmore
210	Son's Return, The	Fritz
120	Storm at Sea. Descriptive	Hullah
10	Sweetest Song, The	Denza
32	Sweet Long Ago, The	Estabrooke
46	That Word was Hope. Waltz song	Nutting
118	There's a Rainbow in the Clouds	Danks
206	There's Sure to be a Way	Delano
158	Thinking of Home and Mother	Cohen
116	'Tis True, Dear Heart, We're Fading	Estabrooke
108	Tread softly the Angels are calling	Turner
38	True to the Last	Adams
64	Vicar of Bray, The. Old English Song	
62	Your Mother's Love for You	Koppt
84	What are the Wild Waves Saying? Duet	Glover
58	When the Roses are Blooming Again	Skelly
86	When Winter Days Have Gone	Trayne
186	Whistling Wife, The. Comic	Randall
212	Why am I ever Watching	de Lasaide
218	Why do Summer Roses Fade	Barker

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HYPNOTIZED COONS.

CAKE WALK AND TWO STEP

W. G. WILMARTH.



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POWER IN PIANO-PLAYING.

Very seldom does a musician recognize the fact that it takes a great amount of power to play a piano or organ, but science here as elsewhere has demonstrated that successful playing is by no means as easy as it looks and that the aggregate of power expended even in a simple piece is almost incredible.

The softest note seems to require absolutely no exertion and yet less force expended was what brought about the invention of the steam engine. It was the lifting of the kettle-lid which showed James Watts the expansive power of steam, and it takes more power to sound the delicate note. You can easily prove this by taking a handful of coins and placing them one after another on a single key until it is depressed and then weighing the pile. The weight of sufficient coins to produce this result will represent the exact force expended on a light note. For fortissimo playing much greater exertion is necessary and calculations show that a force equal to six pounds weight is necessary at times on a single key.

It is more difficult to find the power necessary on chords, for there it is not necessary to expend three times the force used on a single key; for though undoubtedly a much greater force is used than on a single key it is spread out through the various fingers to the different keys. By this one readily sees why professional players so often have a remarkable development of muscles. At one time athletes were trained for contests with heavy weights but now nothing of the kind is done and light exercise calculated to develop the muscles, while, at the same time, making them flexible is the rule. With this idea in mind one appreciates that a conscientious player unconsciously takes a great amount of physical exercise of the best character in even her ordinary playing.

To give a slight idea of the tremendous force really brought into play a few scientists figured up a test, taking as an example Chopin's last study in minor C. It takes two and a half minutes to play this and most careful tests and figuring showed that the lightest playing made a pressure of two and a half tons necessary in the aggregate, while over three tons was brought to bear by the heaviest play. After several lengthened tests of the same character it was estimated that the average hour in Chopin's music would require anywhere from twelve to eighty-four tons of force expended.

When, then, we read that Paderewski has such wonderful muscular development in his fingers that he can place his hand on a plate glass as if fingering a piano and break it by striking it sharply with his middle finger, we are no longer incredulous. It is told that he has thus broken glass of half an inch in thickness.

Though not exactly in line with the above it is well for COMFORT readers to know that Bach first invented the present system by which the thumbs are used as well as the fingers. Before his day only the four fingers were used, the thumbs hanging unused down over the edge of the keyboard.

A FEW WAR SONGS.

Many of the most popular of the songs sung in the Civil war were taken in whole or in part from other pieces. In the course of time and connection with the later thought the real origin of the music or words is often forgotten. A song sung on both sides of the line was "Maryland, my Maryland." Its extreme fervor in sentiment was owing to the fiery words of John Randall who early in the war adapted a poem to the German hymn, "Laurigae Horentius." The words as well as the music fired the Southern heart and its popularity extended into the Northern lines; but the verses were changed to suit the environment in the Northern army.

Before the outbreak of hostilities Dan Emmet, the great New York colored minstrel, wrote and sung "Dixie." It was one of those tunes which are only to be described as "catchy" and proved immensely popular. It was entirely a song of peace and happiness and only by accident became a war song. But more curious than this transition was the fate of an old and much neglected camp-meeting song, said to have originated and been used in colored meetings in Charleston, S. C., long before the war was considered as a possibility.

In its present form it first came from the Second Battalion of Massachusetts Infantry, familiarly known as "The Tigers," who, at the outbreak of the war, were ordered to garrison Fort Warren in Boston harbor, for its defence. In this battalion was one of the best glee clubs in the city, and from this club the other soldiers learned the tune of this Methodist hymn. Many verses were improvised to the air. The fun concentrated on one of their number, a Scotchman named John Brown. Later a large number of the battalion enlisted in Col. Fletcher Webster's regiment, the 12th, and thus the song was carried into the war.

It has a rather varied history, being first a Methodist hymn, and then a camp song, then an abolition ode by Edna Dean Proctor and Julia Ward Howe's "Battle Hymn of the Republic."

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Many of our readers will recollect with pleasure the late Bishop Brooks of Trinity Church in Boston. Notwithstanding the fact that he was connected with churches all his life, and with the Episcopalian ceremonial service, he never became acquainted with the value of music, and it was impossible for him to appreciate even the rudiments of musical culture. It is said that at one time while talking to his organist, Mr. Parker, relative to a certain tune or chant that had been selected by the Bishop for a certain occasion, the organist suggested that it was inappropriate as the words should be joyous while the music selected was of a minor mode and ought to be major. This lead to the request on the part of the Bishop to be informed as to the difference between the major and minor, which Mr. Parker illustrated first by playing a major chord and then a minor, repeating each several times, until the Bishop exclaimed, "Oh, yes, I see the difference; the minor chord sounds as if the major chord had been sat upon."

Every lover of music wants a bargain in modern sheet music. COMFORT'S offer on another page tells you how to obtain it at about cost of postage alone. Read the music offer.

The Ancient and Royal Game of Golf.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



NO game has ever taken such a hold on all classes of society as Golf. A few years ago it was known only by name to the majority in the United States, and few could describe it, but now how many millions of dollars are invested in Golf Links and Club Houses and all ages and both sexes play the game believing with the ancient poet, who wrote about the time of Chaucer, but whose poem was modernized in 1710:

"To live a life, free from gout, pain and phthisic,
Athletic employment is found the best physic;
The nerves are by golfing hardened and strengthened,
And vigor attends it by which life is lengthened."

The origin of the game is lost in the mists of antiquity. It certainly was played as far back as any records exist of Scottish history, and it can be traced all through the centuries in England since the reign of Edward III. who ascended the throne in 1327.

At that time it was spoken of as the most ancient game of "*cluich-dhesog*," that being the old Gaelic name, but the Lowlanders called it "*Cambuae*."

The name "golf," may have been derived from the German *Kolbe* or the Dutch, *Kolf*, meaning a club. The Dutch game of Kolf differed very materially from the Scotch golf, but the Hollanders knew so well how to make the hard balls used in the game that the Scotch imported them in such large numbers as greatly to injure home industry. The protectionists of the day demanded a prohibitory tariff, and in the year 1618 a law was enacted prohibiting the importation of the balls, a reason being given for such legislation that "na small quantitie of gold and silver is transported yierlie out his Hienes' kingdom of Scoteland for the balles."

In 1457 the good people of Scotland became so infatuated with golf that they neglected all other amusements and especially the art of shooting with a bow and arrow, which was accounted a necessary accomplishment for all. Remonstrances were useless so the Scottish parliament prohibited the playing of golf, the enactment declaring that it be "decreted and ordained that golf be utterlie cryit doun and nocht usit."

The act became a dead letter, the people played just as much as ever, and in 1491 a very angry proclamation was issued by the king, in which he ordered that, "Futeball and golfe be forbidden. Item, it is statut and ordanit that in na place of the realme there be usit, Futeball, Golfe or uther unprofitabill sportis, under the pain of fourtie shillinges," a sum equal to a hundred dollars of our money to-day.

Whether James IV. after issuing this proclamation found it impossible to stop the game, or that he was convinced the game was not as bad as his advisers had painted, it is a fact that in the very next year he figured as a player on the links and to the end of his life was a patron of the sport.

Golf obtained a foothold in England at the end of the fifteenth century, and a club still exists near London which was established in 1608. Charles I. was so much attracted to the game that he could never go near the links without playing. He was engaged in it on the Irish links, on his visit to Scotland in 1641 when an intimation was conveyed to him of the rebellion in Ireland. He, with very great reluctance, threw down his stick and returned to Holyrood Palace.

James II. was exceedingly devoted to the sport and gave the St. Andrew's Golf Club the right to use the word "royal" in connection with the game and the club.

In his day the word was written "goff" and sometimes "gouff" and "gowff." From these spellings we get the pedantic pronunciation, so much affected, "gawf."

It was claimed that golf was the most perfect of athletic sports and that it was adapted to the weak as well as the strong, though a writer in 1743 declares that the "weak become strong, the feeble take on the strength of giants" if they play the game with frequency.

"Golf and the Man, I sing, who em'lous plies
The jointed club; whose balls invade the skies."

A poet wrote in 1742, in defence of the game, and through a long epic described all the movements from the "teeing ground" to the approach of the last hole, when the excitement became very great.

"Meanwhile the Chiefs for the last hole contend,
The last great hole, which does their labors end."

Golf was introduced into the United States ten years ago but it was not until 1894 that the United States Golf Association was established. In the short space of five years nearly a hundred clubs have been formed and affiliated with the Association, and at least as many more clubs exist which are not listed. All however play according to the rules of the Association which are practically the same as those of the oldest club, the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrew.

Golf is universally played. Clubs exist in Cape Colony and the Transvaal, in India and China, Australia and New Zealand. In fact wherever the white man has taken up his burden the royal and ancient game of Golf has gone with him to beguile him in the hours of leisure.

The Golf Club of Sydney, New South Wales, recently gave a golf dinner to Lord Hampden. The menu was suggestive of the game. It read as follows:

The Drive Off: Oysters-halved in two.
A Spoon Shot—Clear Turtle Soup.
Out of the Water—Whiting—foozled.
The Approach—Fillets of beef—grassed Vol au vent—mashed.
The Bunker—Saddle of Lamb—sliced.
A Foul Shot—Spatchcock—on the green.
A Dangerous Hazard—Mayonnaise of Prawns.
Dormy Two—Ice on the ball.
The Last Hole—Gobble of Anchovies.
Dessert. Coffee.
All Down.

Unlike many other sports all can play. The old and young, mothers and daughters alike join in the sport and while amusing themselves inhale the pure air, develop the muscles and give tone to the body.

As amusement is as necessary as food, it is well to encourage healthy pastime for, as Freeth wrote in 1790:

"Mankind will ever their pleasure pursue,
The mind must be ever employ'd;
The fancy to please is the motive in vein,
And each will his hobby horse ride.
Some take up their bats and the cricket ball bang,
Some brisk in the Five Court are seen;
Of the sports in the field many fondly harangue,
And some boast the sports of the green."

Long may golf live to give healthy pleasure to our young men and maidens.

Kindergarten Piano Instruction.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



IF ever there was a time when the young mind was helped over the disagreeable paths of learning it surely is now, when all sorts of ingenious contrivances are labored over to interest and at the same time to instruct. And in many prominent cities here in our own country and abroad, there has been accepted a sort of, one might say, sugar-coated system of promoting a musical interest in mere babies without inspiring in them, at the outset, the dread of *piano practice*. Give a child an explanation of a theory and he will puzzle over it and then not understand, but an *object lesson* he can soon master and will never forget.

Miss Evelyn Fletcher, daughter of Ashton Fletcher, Queen's Council, a young woman of Canadian birth, is the inventor of the Fletcher System.

Miss Fletcher studied for five years in England, Belgium, Germany and Switzerland with the best masters, violin, singing, harmony and piano, and on her return to Canada she began a career as teacher. She immediately saw the urgent need of interesting children who had a dislike for the drudgery of studying the piano, and after studying herself children and their needs, she worked out the Frœbel principles and found an easier way to teach the little ones without having all their natural love of music crushed out by science.

Her idea is to prepare their minds with the primary knowledge so at the end of the course they can be put at the piano, the hard, uninteresting part over, with only pleasurable work ahead. Everything in the way of information is conveyed to the child's mind dressed in holiday attire, and games and stories hold the attention. There are musical note blocks; time division blocks; a tone ladder for scale building and a detachable key board. Ear training games and games for rhythm, technique and musical history.

First, the variety of notes shaped in wood the children become familiar with as with different toys. Then they draw them on the blackboard until they know each one. They are then told that the staff is the home of the notes and each note has his own room.

Fourth, an apparatus of five lines of tape, i. e. the home, is put in front of the children, on a table. Each line is named twice; 1st, when Miss Treble Clef resides there, and 2nd when Mr. Bass Clef is at home. The spaces are taught in the same way. Then the notes are put into their various *rooms* by the children. Later they draw all this on the blackboard and the child making the most correct reproduction of staff and notes in scale, is awarded a crown of paste-board on which is printed musical characters.

Table exercises prepare the hand positions. In teaching scales the keys of the adjustable key board are removed and put back at will. And the children play a game where a set of Majors go out to walk, starting with Major C. Then the Minor family go for a promenade, with Mr. C. Minor leading.

For *time* study a simple piece is played on the piano and the children mark the accent by clapping on the accented beat and only patting their hands softly on the unaccented. But the child is taught to read music and to understand *rhythm* before there is any attempt at the key board.

A similar idea is used in familiarizing children with notes in singing. It is called the musical family.

Do is the father. He is strong and self reliant, with a firm full voice. *Mi* is the mother, because she is gentle and full of sympathy. *Sol* is the eldest son, a young man of joyous disposition with a clear, ringing voice. *Fa* is the younger brother but not like *Sol*, for he is of a serious disposition. We like him very much, he shows such an attachment to his mother *Mi*. *La*, the eldest daughter, is often found in a sad, complaining mood, and shows more tendency to tears than smiles. The younger sister, *Ra*, is of a hopeful disposition with a confiding nature, and it is beautiful to see with what tender affection she turns to her mother, *Mi*, and to her father, *Do*. One other member of the family is the baby, *Si*. The chief thing about him is his crying habit for his father, *Do*, and his shrill voice.

Miss Fletcher's musical family have names much the same as these. She calls her low G. "Grandpa G.," and her high G., "G. up G.," for instance.

Through this system it is hoped a musical understanding will be implanted in the mind of young America, similar to the inborn comprehension of the German race.

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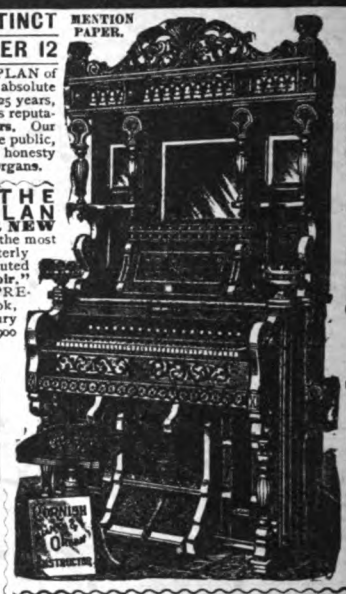
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Send for particulars of the Cornish Co-operative Plan, showing how you can secure a Cornish Piano or Organ Free.

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MENTION PAPER.



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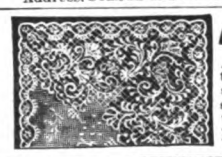
NO ADVANCE IN PRICES

$15.50 IN SPITE OF RECENT ADVANCES IN RAW MATERIAL. Will buy our beautiful latest model **Arlington Gem** Drop Head Sewing Machine possessing all the known improvements, such as Self Threading Vibrating Shuttle; Self Setting Needle; Automatic Bobbin Winder, etc.; adapted to light and heavy work. Full set of attachments free. A better machine than some sold at from $25 to $35. Shipped direct from factory at wholesale prices C. O. D. or on 30 days free trial in your own home. No agent's or dealer's large profits to pay. A positive saving of $10 to $20. **WARRANTED 20 YEARS.** Money promptly refunded if not found as represented. We have over 50 different styles including some as low as..... **$8.50**

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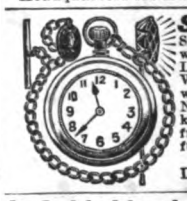
Any one can earn this beautiful pair of latest pattern, white Lace Curtains, with exquisite Floral Design, 36 inches wide, 3 yards long, by selling only 10 sets of our Ladies Beauty pins (each pin set with an exquisite Jewel) at 25c. a set. Simply send your name & address & promise to try to sell the pins, & when sold send us the money, & we will send you a pair of these beautiful curtains for your trouble. We run all the risk & will take back all the pins you cannot sell. This grand offer is good for 30 days only. Write to-day. Don't put it off until it is too late. The Maxwell Co. Dept. 415. St. Louis, Mo.

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Headquarters for Electric Novelties, Supplies, Books.



SEND NO MONEY. Simply send your name & address & we will send you 2 doz. Pkts. Sweet Leonin Sachets, to sell at 10c. each. When sold send us the money & we will send you this Keyless Heavy Nickle Plated Watch, (warranted to keep good time) also chain and charm free We will also send you a beautiful Scarf pin free if you write to-day.
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To introduce our famous little **Giant Oxien Pills,** giving all the chance to derive the wonderful benefits from these new life giving wonders. We send two boxes absolutely free all charges paid. You sell the Pills for 25c. per box send us the money within 20 days, 50c. in all, and we give you as a premium this wonderful **Gold Lined Silver Dish free.** These dishes are warranted **quadruple plated silver,** they are fluted top and beautiful and useful ornaments, they are suitable for dining table use or useful as side dish or for bon bons they are elegant and will last for years. Send your name and address at once so your friends can derive the great benefits coming from the use of **Oxien Pills** and you get the profits as the dish can be sold in a moment for 75c. These Pills are noted for their quick action on Liver, Stomach, Heart, Bowels and special organs of either sex. All ills vanish as by magic if you use these pills. Send quick so as to be sure of a dish before they all go, and get full particulars of our great money making agency proposition where you get hundreds of dollars from a one dollar investment. Address
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Most gorgeous in coloring and beautiful in design of all foliage plants. Cut shows a few sample leaves only. Elegant for pots, vases, window and piazza-boxes, etc. Superb named sorts only 15c. each; or 3, **all different,** for only 35c. **Full cultural directions** in our fine 64-page **Catalogue,** which is sent to all applicants **FREE.** Address,
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MORPHINE and Opium Habits Cured. A guaranteed, painless, home treatment. FREE trial will convince you. **OPA SPECIALTY CO., Chicago**

CONFECTION, FOOD, MEDICINE.



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Two Thousand Packages Shelled Peanuts SENT FREE.

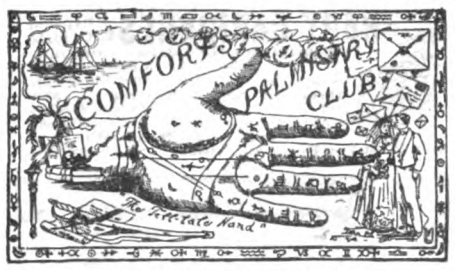
SELL 12 PACKAGES AND GET A WATCH.

The art of shelling and salting peanuts has just reached perfection. As a **confection** they are peerless, **as a food unequaled.** German scientists have spent years experimenting with Peanut flour. It is found to contain **three times the nutriment of wheat;** and whole salted peanuts, being so much more palatable than wheat, have also been found with a slight addition of **Pepsin Salt** to be a sure **cure for Dyspepsia** and other stomach, kidney and liver troubles. Yes, even persons with **Bright's Disease** or Diabetes can now be cured. It is only necessary for old or young to eat a few of our **Pepsin Salted Peanuts** after meals to keep in perfect health—but they can also be **eaten in any quantity as a confection** without the least distress or trouble to the weakest stomach. Children delight to feast on them and they are much better than candy. They also cure Heart Burn and Insomnia.

To Form Part of the **Treat or Refreshments** at party gatherings, sociables, etc., they are indispensable, and to have them on the table as dessert is the best of form. Everyone, both old and young, now wants a few in the pocket at all times to nibble on—for with all the troublesome oils properly treated as they are in our **special process** of Curing and Roasting Peanuts, they have at last lost all terrors to weak stomachs, and are warranted not to become rancid, and to keep well in any climate.

FREE We will send two thousand packages of these Pepsin Salted Peanuts out to responsible parties who furnish proper references. You sell 12 ten-cent packages **and get a watch,** a guaranteed good timekeeper. But to first introduce them quickly we send **one package as a sample free to any one enclosing six cents** for a three months' subscription to COMFORT. You can then test them and see how many packages you want to start with. *No attention paid to first orders without trial 6c subscription.* Write at once and be among the first to get the free packages. **FREE**

Address, COMFORT FOOD DEP'T O, Augusta, Maine.



CONDUCTED BY DIGITUS.

CONDITIONS.

To have one's hands read in this department, by Digitus, one of the finest living palmists, it is necessary to observe the following conditions:

Impressions of both hands must be sent, fully postpaid and having the name, address and nom de plume of the sender enclosed in the package also.

The package must in every instance be accompanied by the names and addresses of eight new subscribers at twenty-five cents each, the whole amount, $2.00 being remitted, with the package, addressed to COMFORT PALMISTRY CLUB, Augusta, Maine.

No notice will be taken of impressions and requests for readings unless the sender has fully complied with the above conditions.

To take impressions, first hold two large pieces of blank paper over a candle or similar flame, until they are heavily coated with the smoke. Then lay these pieces down, smoke side uppermost on a pad of cotton. Now place the two hands, palms downward, one on each sheet of paper, pressing firmly and steadily down, but taking care not to move the hand. Keep them so for one minute and lift carefully, so as not to disturb the impression. Have ready some fixatif, which can be bought at a drug store or an art store or made with gum arabic and water in an atomizer. Spray this over the impressions before they are moved and allow them to dry. Then they are ready to send.

Smoked paper impressions are the best. But if it is desired to send a plaster cast, take plaster of Paris and dissolve in water to the consistency of thick cream. Pour this into a large shallow dish and when it is hardening place the hand, well-greased, palm downward, in the plaster, pressing downward. Several minutes will be required to get this impression and great care must be taken in removing the hand, not to break the plaster. Casts are exceedingly difficult to send without breaking and should be very carefully packed in a box with the name of the sender written on it. Putty is sometimes successfully used in place of plaster. A good photograph if sufficiently well taken to bring out all the lines, can also be read, although in all cases the smoked paper is the best, if properly treated with fixatif.

Bear in Mind that all the above conditions must be observed.

Also, that letters not complying with them will go into the waste-basket. Readings cannot appear for several months after impressions are sent.

I HAVE a few questions to answer this month and I would like to have you all feel free to ask questions. I have no doubt that it is of more interest and value to most of you to have questions answered than it is to give up the entire department to readings.

What are the worry lines? They are the fine lines running across the hand principally across the life line into the palm.

What does it signify when the line of health comes down across the fate line and touches the life line half way between the center of the palm and the wrist, then returns again to the fate line, back to the life line and so on to the end of both lines? This would signify that the health would be broken up considerably at the point indicated by the juncture of the health and life lines. If the line touches the fate line I should say that the ill health would in some way affect the career of the subject.

The first hand which I shall read belongs to "Alone—Iowa." As I have many times told you a photograph, no matter how well it is taken is not as easy to read as a smoked paper impression. This one, however, shows a great many fine lines, worry lines, I should say, a long life line free from worry lines during the last half and a fairly good hand on the whole. This lady has improved in her natural disposition very much. She is inclined to be morbid and dissatisfied by nature, but she has trained herself to have courage and hope for the best. She has had or will have a good many crosses to bear until she is about thirty-five, after which her life will be exceptionally smooth and easy. There is a severe illness or a deep-seated grief that comes to her not far from that age, but from that time on, life will be much pleasanter and better in every way. There are a good many fine influences rising from her life line, but I do not see very much money for her. An early love affair comes to nothing and from the age of twenty-five onward she will have trouble with matters connected with the affections. I do not think she will ever marry, but after the age of thirty-five, as I have said, if she does not marry it will be from her own desire not to and she will be very successful in some way. She is very artistic and philosophical; she would make a fine musician; she has great tact and delicacy in dealing with others and is dainty and refined in all her tastes. On the whole hers is a fairly good hand, the worst coming early in life, so that she may look forward to a pleasant middle and old age. She will live to be very old.



ALONE—IOWA.

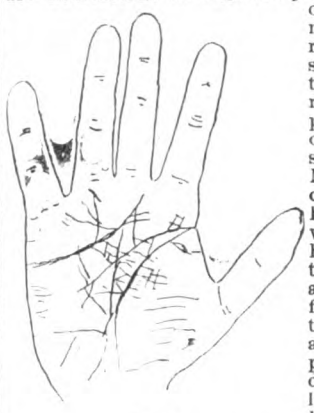
"T. T." shows another hand full of fine worry lines, which indicate a nervous temperament and one which will make trouble for itself all through life. The health will never be very strong and the subject will not live to be more than forty. The impression is somewhat blotted in the center, but I should judge that the marriage which takes place about the age of twenty will result in a divorce and that the subject will be very despondent and suffer a great deal during the process. He or she, I do not know which, is very imaginative, almost morbid in tendency and will be tempted to commit suicide. The temptation, however, will be resisted and the patient will die a natural death. There are very good qualities indicated which if rightly applied will make this person successful and wealthy. The greatest lack is of self-reliance and perseverance and the greatest fault is this morbid sensitiveness. If T. T. will overcome these he or she may have a long, happy and successful life.



T. T.

"K. F." shows another peculiar hand and sends only the impression of the left, which is never satisfactory for a complete reading. This hand also shows many worry lines crossing the life and the fate line. There is a lack of courage and self-reliance here, but not so noticeable as in the last hand read. This subject has a very imaginative way of telling a thing so that her enemies would accuse her of exaggeration and misrepresentation. She will not however, mean to do anything of the sort, but she loves to make herself interesting when she talks. A want of tact and weak will are indicated by the thumb. She will never marry, but will live to a good old age. She will have some money and live in comparative comfort all her days. She is religious in her tendencies, moral and upright in character, but very peculiar in many of her ideas. She will travel a great deal and one of her journeys will be a long one that will affect her after-life in many ways.

I have a good many questions asking about marriage lines. Marriage lines are not necessarily marriages that are sanctioned by law or Church rites; they are those in evidence of a love that unites heart and soul. Though there are indications in different parts of the hands on lines and mounts corroborating and substantiating them—the marriage lines proper are found on the percussion side of Mount of Mercury, running horizontally with line of heart and between that line and Mercury's finger. The intensity of the affection is portrayed by the depth and length of the line; if more than one line is in evidence you must look for sign of widow or widowerhood, or divorce. The line at its best should be clear, and well on to the Mount of Mercury, sloping slightly toward heart line. The line being close to the finger, the marriage will be early in life, between eighteen and twenty-one; midway between finger and heart line, it will occur nearer twenty-eight, and close to the heart, at thirty-five or later. The exact date is usually established by the line coming from the Mount of Venus and reaching the life line (already referred to in the reading of the line of life.) If the line is forked and one end is drooping to the heart line, there will be a divorce; and if a very fine line is traced from it to the Mount of Venus, with an island on it, a separation without process of law will take place; if the line crosses mount of Mercury and ends on Apollo, the subject loses caste by the marriage.



K. F.

Some of the modern cheirosophists hold that branches from the mount of Moon to fate line are marriages, but I do not think it correct.

Two marriage lines on the percussion will mean a love affair after marriage, unless widowhood or divorce is shown on the line. Marriage lines sending branches on Mount of Apollo, the subject marries an artist of renown; widow or widowerhood is shown by a break in the marriage line, cut by a line at end, or by a spot or point on the line, or line ending in a star on Mercury. Small vertical lines above the marriage line on mount of Mercury are children born, if line is clear; if line is faint, the children are to be born; one of the lines entering the finger of Mercury is honors for that child.

Digitus

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Any and ALL DISEASES Cured Without Drugs or the Surgeon's Knife through the Divine Power.

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THE ONLY CURE FOR DISEASE

The Divine Healer Free, Also A Book All About Divine Healing Sent Without Cost to Any One.

THERE ARE NO HOPELESS OR INCURABLE DISEASES.

"Whence hath this man this wisdom and these mighty works?"

The whole world is astounded and bewildered at the miraculous cures of diseases daily made by **Francis Truth, the Great Divine Healer** of Boston. He is the most **wonderful and successful** Divine Healer of modern times. Any and all diseases cured without drugs, medicines or the surgeon's knife, **at any distance**, by **Divine Power.** He will send you **Absolutely Free** a book fully explaining his Divine Power. **The Divine Healer** is also sent **free** to all who are sick and will write a letter telling about their disease. Divine Power cures when everything else fails. **"The hand of God is upon all them that seek Him for Good."** In permanently curing by Divine Power **Distance Makes No Difference.** All sick and suffering ought to read Mr. Truth's **free** book; **it don't cost you one cent.** The Divine Healer is a liberal and kind-hearted man, hence his great Power, and all sufferers from **Disease** or **Poverty** should write him for **Free** advice. He will gladly write you special instructions **free** and send his wonderful book **free.**

Divine Healing is not **Hypnotism, Mental Healing, Faith Cure** or **Magnetic Healing.** It is the **Divine** or **Soul Power** which heals and cures **when everything else fails.** Mr. Truth is the Greatest Divine Healer of modern times. **He** helps others to develop Divine Power. **Write for free** circulars, books, testimonials, special instructions, etc.

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The Divine Healer is **very successful** in treating men and women who through lack of wisdom and vital force cannot amass wealth or succeed in their undertakings. Often **poverty is a disease.** Hundreds have been treated by Mr. Truth, by **Absent** and Personal treatments for success and are **now prosperous and amassing wealth. Don't remain sick or in poverty.** It will pay every sick person and those who are not prospering to write fully about their cases to Mr. Truth and receive his special instructions **free** and a book and the Divine Healer without one cent of cost.

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6 S, Bowdoin Sq., Boston, Mass.

A MAGIC FLUTE ROMANCE.

John Henderson is the luckiest man in the West. If you don't believe it ask him and he will confess it, and tell you moreover that he owes all his good luck in his life to the Magic Flute. It is a strange story, but the true facts are these: Mr. Henderson was in love. The object of his affections was a beautiful young girl of his native town, Des Moines. She was a musical enthusiast and had suitors by the score, for she was not only charming and beautiful of face and figure, but to these graces she added the talent of a superb musician. Naturally, though Mr. Henderson pressed his suit with great ardor, as he was not a performer on any musical instrument he failed to make the desired impression, however much he loved music, and dearly loved the object of his affections.

Happening in Omaha one day, quite disconsolate, he was astonished to hear sweet and tender strains issuing from the rear door of what proved to be a music store. He paused at the curbstone and listened. It was one of the favorite songs of his beloved, and so mellow and sweet were the sounds that they brought tears to his eyes. Entering the store the stranger asked what sort of an instrument it was that gave forth such magic sounds. He was shown the Magic Flute which had just arrived from New York. Thinking that the instrument that performed such tone miracles must have cost a hundred dollars or more, he was amazed to see what a trifling sum. He bought the instrument, and the next day returned to his native city and that night under the window of the maiden who had rejected him for his lack of musical abilities, Mr. Henderson poured forth his soul in the songs she loved so well. What was the result? The neglected lover was reinstated in the affections of the fair one, the rival suitors retired beaten in the game, and shortly after he was offered a large nightly sum by a celebrated impressario to appear in concert halls in the leading cities of the United States. Mr. and Mrs. Henderson, completely happy and full of gratitude for the working of the Magic Flute, are at present traveling in the East, playing to large houses, Mrs. Henderson accompanying her husband on the piano. The musical world is amazed and delighted with the performances of Mr. Henderson on the Magic Flute. And yet his case is merely typical. You may not win a lovely bride by your skill on the wonderful instrument, but one thing you can do, even if you do not know one note from another, you can play a tune in five minutes and should delight your friends with it within a week.

We have made arrangements with the manufacturers to introduce these wonderful Flutes, and will send one free, all charges paid, including a trial yearly subscription to all sending 25c. to COMFORT Subscription Department, Augusta, Maine. Agents are selling large quantities of these Flutes and you better not delay in sending for a sample and getting wholesale prices.

$18 to $35 WEEKLY and Expenses. MEN and WOMEN. At Home or Traveling.

Mr. Smith of Ind., made $927.50 first 6 months. Albert Hill, of N. J., $238 first month. Mr. Muncy, of Texas, $12.50 first 2 hours. Carrie Williams, clerk, $144 in 6 weeks. Mrs. Hitchcox, $222 besides housekeeping. Lida Kennedy, $84.00 while teaching.



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World Mfg. Co., 47 World Bld'g, Cincinnati, O.

[*We recommend the above firm as reliable.—Editor.*]

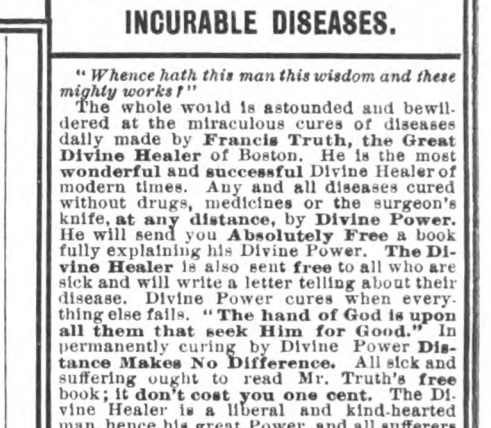
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MEN or WOMEN to represent us in their own state. Your duties to take charge of solicitors and attend to collections. **No Investment Required.** Send stamp for application blank. Co-Operative Co., 200 Star Bldg, Chicago

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A **Labor-Saving** device entirely new and **universal in demand.** Will last a lifetime and costs but **Twenty-five cents. Just on the market and over 500 Gross** sold last month. Every family in the land wants one or more. All you do to sell them is simply show the lady of the house or the office man how it works on his window and you will depart with one less every time, but in its place a quarter.

The **Magical Sponge** differs from the ordinary sponge in nature, while the common sponge is of **vegetable origin** and found in the ocean, the Magical Sponge is a **mineral production** and found in the United States, dug from the ground, carefully prepared and manufactured into sponges for the **Housekeeper, Merchant, Liveryman, Metal Workers,** and all persons who desire to keep their homes, offices, and business places in a clean and healthy condition.

No Soap or water is needed or even used with the Magical Sponge for Cleaning Windows or any outside Metal. In the **winter time** it has no equal, it does not freeze, and no water being used (other than what is in the sponge) all trouble and hard work is avoided. For Cleaning **Baseboards, Window Sills, Wainscoating and painted surfaces,** it acts like a charm; takes all the finger marks, spots, grease and dirt away, leaving a **Clean, Polished Surface.**

Good men wanted all over the country to handle these goods, big inducements offered steady workers, and exclusive sale. **To Agents, Salesmen, and house to house canvassers,** who send us 25 cents for a 6 months' subscription, we will send one sample post paid, and make them a business proposition. Write at once. Secure your territory.

Address **COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.**

DO YOU PLAY THE VIOLIN?

If so try our **new importation** of Violin Strings, from one of the best Makers in Europe. Full set of four strings, A. E. G. D. or 4 of any letter for only 10 cents, Stamps or Silver.

GOLDEN MOMENTS, Augusta, Maine.

ONE MILLION PACKAGES FLOWER SEEDS FREE.

This Mammoth Collection contains the cream of all flower seeds—just what you want to make a **Magnificent Garden 23** Exquisite Varieties of elegant, brilliant, dazzling flowers, as follows:

Dewey Victory	10 col.	Zinnias	12 col.
Hobson Choice	8 "	Sweet Williams	14 "
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Ten Weeks' Stock	12 "	Morning Glory	15 "
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A WHOLE FLOWER GARDEN FREE.

To introduce our Beautiful Ladies Magazine in new homes we will on receipt **10 cents** in stamps or silver send it 3 months, also **all** the above Flower Seeds **23** different kinds, Order Quick.

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PNEUMATIC RAPID-FIRE RIFLE.



Here's One on the Pneumatic Plan for Just One Dollar, Made Entirely of Wood and Metal.

Stained and polished to represent mahogany, has all improvements, exposed metal parts, heavily plated. Same size as regular Carbine. Is designed for shot, which can be bought for a trifling expense anywhere. Works on the pneumatic spring scientific plan. Loads at Breech. Shoots with accuracy. Has the force and precision of any magazine gun. Can be used with perfect safety by men, women and children. No horrible accidents by careless handling. Kills birds and small game. Just right for hunting where silence is wanted. Brass tubes, air chamber, and heavy metal springs. Endorsed by officers of the Army and Navy as the best mechanical rifle ever produced, Used on practice ships in place of regular magazine rifles. Boys are delighted with it and prefer it to a larger gun. Can be kept in your room to protect the household if you dislike to have firearms around. Absolutely no danger. Perfect workmanship guaranteed in each gun. We will send this paper a year and this rifle complete and sent carefully packed for $1.00.

SPECIAL OFFER. Send us a club of five yearly subscribers to this paper at 25 cents each, and we will send you one of these rifles free as a premium, all charges paid. Address NATIONAL FARMER, Augusta, Maine.



BY EVERETT G. WHEELMAN.

THE newest thing in the bicycle line comes from an English manufacturer and is designed to eclipse everything yet put on the market. Our illustration shows this latest thing in the bicycling world. The designer has carried the upper tube from the seat post cluster to the lower end of the head, and has brought the rear forks from their former position to the middle of the seat post tube, whence they are extended in a new tube to the top of the head. The dotted lines in the accompanying cut show the changes.

Of this new idea the makers say:

Of scientific design and advanced principles, this model appeals at once to the mechanical mind as an object of great strength in its lightest and most direct form. It is constructed to withstand all strains caused by the driving of the machine, more especially laterally, when increased power is applied, and affords also a more comfortable seat and proper length of head.

No excess of tubing exists nor is there a deficiency in any one part. For those riders who consider the diamond frame lacking in strength or rigidity between the head and rear wheel axle, this improved model is presented. It has been thoroughly tested since Easter, 1899, proving itself a splendid hill climber and a complete success in every way.

A new bicycle tire on the cushion principle is promised for this season. The tire does not have to be inflated. This is a radical departure from the pneumatic pattern. The tire is constructed of rubber disks three-sixteenths of an inch thick and seven-sixteenths of an inch apart, held by ribs at the thread and vulcanized to the outer covering. The tire weighs more than the pneumatic, but it is said to be full of resiliency and "life". Punctures and leaky valves are impossible.

A veteran rider who has had much experience with porous tires gives a recipe for repairing them, which, he says, is all right. It is given merely for what it is worth. Most riders have found that when their tires get porous the only thing to do is to throw them away and get new ones. The recipe is as follows:

Should you have a tire that is porous and leaky, make a lather of ordinary yellow soap, remove the valve, and put some of the paste inside the tube, work it (by rubbing the outside of the tire between finger and thumb) all around the inner part of the tube, and then readjust the valve.

One of the new cyclometers promised for the coming season is so arranged that it will not record mileage when the rider is coasting. The improvement will be appreciated by those who have adopted the "free wheel".

Mr. T. J. Keenan, President of the L. A. W., when asked for his opinions recently said:

The bicycle has come like a conqueror into the field of athletics. Its swift rush into popular favor has left far in the rear the old-fashioned sports which we have inherited from our ancestors, and even the once dominant national game has been relegated to a back seat and the insidious advance of its coming rival, the silent steed, had already commenced. Distanced as the velocipede is in the first lap, gaining a little as the solid ordinary before it reached the bell, it suddenly shot out of the bunch as the pneumatic safety on the home stretch and crossed the wire with the champion neck and neck.

The evolution of the bicycle during the past twenty years has given to America and to the world a healthful recreation in which both sexes may equally indulge, and a new and attractive form of athletics which both may appreciate and enjoy. Cycling has exerted a forceful and far-reaching influence on recreation for the reason that it appeals more directly to more persons than any other form of exercise and pastime. Old and young, rich and poor, men and women, singly or in companies, enjoy cycling. It is good for anybody, anywhere, any time. Used as a means of recreation it will carry one around the block or around the world. It is a harmonizer of recreations of all kinds and all countries. It is American, European, Asiatic and Oceanic. It is the mechanical Volapuk in the world of pastimes. It gaily wanders by "the wild and winding Rhine" and "the blue rushing of the arrowy Rhone." It threads its way amid the reminiscent beauty of

The glory that was Greece
And the grandeur that was Rome.

A penny-in-the-slot tire pump machine is the latest and a company has been formed to place the invention on the market. An inventor who believed that the use of the pneumatic tire is increasing so fast as to open a field for an automatic pump, has perfected one which will be operated by electricity. Upon dropping a cent in the slot sufficient air will be admitted to fill one pneumatic tire. This will be as handy as a watering trough for horses and even more so as it will always be at hand.

An absolutely puncture proof tire is shown for both bicycles and automobiles. It is like the average tube except that the fabric is woven in a different manner. In tests recently made, neither tacks nor pins could be driven through any of these tires.

A new coaster brake seems to promise to go ahead of all others on the market. It can be applied to any bicycle without removing the tires, spokes, rims or hubs. All one has to do is to remove the old sprocket and lock and replace it by the new sprocket, lock-nut and brake disk. The inventor claims that it has no springs or parts which can get out of order and that it weighs only nine ounces. I do not know where it can be found, or where in fact any of the inventions described in these columns may be purchased. I should advise, however, that any one who wants to find out about them should ask his most experienced dealer to do so. Dealers are usually willing to investigate any new invention if there promises to be any sale.

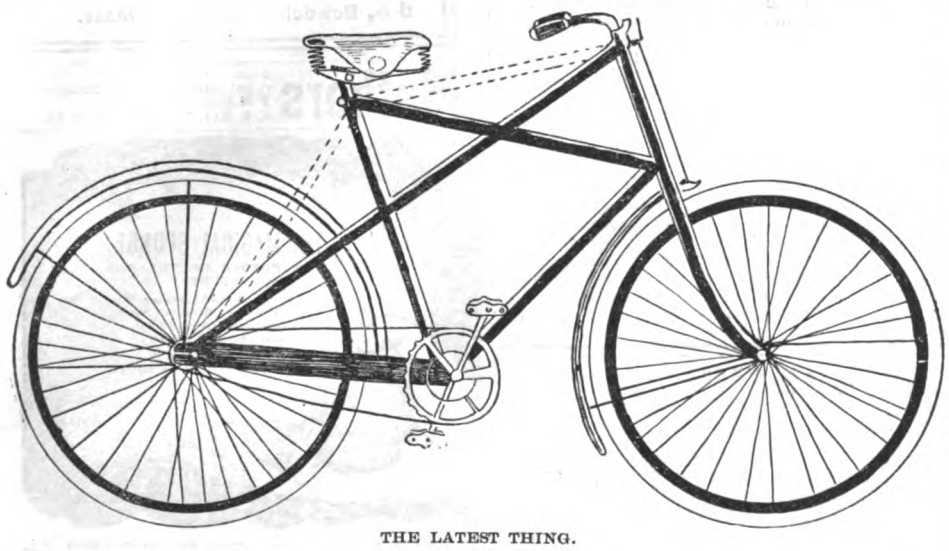
According to dealers, the outlook for the chain business is very encouraging and the indications are that the season of 1900 will see many more chainless wheels than ever. 1896 was the banner year for the sale of bicycles and a Western man who has been long in the business declares that 1900 will lead that year. This dealer also says that one of the remarkable features about the introduction of wheels in the West has been the improvement in the roads. While this is, perhaps, due to a considerable extent to the farmers and the condition of the money market, there is no doubt that the use of the bicycle has created a demand for good roads all over the country.

One manufacturer says "the bicycles of 1900 will have plenty of new features, but they are simple ones which will perfect the bicycle. The modern pedal for instance, is a combination affair, but instead of a labored effort with wrench and screw driver being necessary to remove the rubbers, they can be taken away with one hand and the pedal can be changed to one of rat-trap pattern without the touch of a tool. This is effected by making each rubber pad in one piece with the central part thin enough to be slightly elastic and the edges cut so as to stretch over the teeth of the pedal and bind firmly. This style of rubber pad is also lighter than the old ones."

There have been many other things introduced to make the parts more simple and easier for the ordinary rider to understand. The increased strength in rigidity in construction is found side by side with less weight and there is a marked improvement in the methods adopted for assembling the parts which form the bottom bracket group, the cranks, axle and bearings.

Most of the crank fasteners to-day can be handled by a woman, while the increased use of ball retainers prevents the old trouble of the balls running over the floor. In the methods of adjusting the bearings, there is the same tendency towards simplicity.

The chainless wheels will show the greatest improvement the coming season. They have been so nearly perfected that they may now be handled by riders who used to think it necessary to take them to a shop every time they wanted to have then overhauled.



THE LATEST THING.

A Work on Hypnotism:

Prof. L. A. Harraden, Jackson, Mich., has an advertisement of hypnotism on another page. He has a free book in which he offers to tell readers all about hypnotism, and how easily it may be learned. It is a fascinating subject, and he would be glad to send it free to anybody who requests the same.

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Hezekiah Butterworth Tells How to Write a Story.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



THE postman had presented me with one of those bulky, long envelopes which would-be authors learn to recognize as far off as they can see the carrier. The seventh successive editor "thanked me for the privilege of being allowed to examine my story, but "regretted," and so forth, as usual. And yet I had felt sure that it was a very good story. What was the matter with it?

A neighbor's little daughter happened to bring me, that very day, a school exercise returned to her as not satisfactory to the teacher. She came to me, she said, because she knew I worked for one of the papers, and so would know all about writing. Without knowing as much as she thought I did, it still was easy to show her how the little essay could be changed so as to be more likely to please the instructor.

The experience gave me an idea. I would take my story to Hezekiah Butterworth, who is a master in the art of story writing, and ask him if I might read it to him, to have him tell me what was the matter with it.

I was fortunate enough to find Mr. Butterworth at home. He very kindly said at once that he would willingly hear me read the story, and would help me if he could. When I had finished reading he said, "That is a capital story. It is not for any fault in the piece of work itself, I think, that it has been sent back to you, but I imagine on account of your choice of a subject.

"A very distinguished editor, one of the most successful men in his profession in the country, wrote me only a little while ago: 'the day of short stories, simply as stories, has passed. Fiction, to-day, must be absolutely up to date. The stories which will sell are those which deal with some phase of the every-day life about us. The only exceptions to this rule are the stories into which an element of psychic interest is introduced, and holiday stories.' By the latter I think he meant," said Mr. Butterworth, "tales pertaining to any special day or time, like Thanksgiving, Christmas, or Washington's Birthday.

"Your story is good, but it does not meet with these requirements. Now suppose you try your hand at writing a holiday story."

"I think I will try a Thanksgiving story," said I.

"Very good," said my adviser, "only it will probably be in next year's edition that it must be published."

"Why so?" I asked, for it was then only September.

"Because the editors of the leading magazines and weeklies make up their holiday numbers months in advance. Some of them take the manuscripts for these off with them for the long summer vacation, to be digested at leisure. Others like to get the whole business out of the way before vacation. My own Christmas and Thanksgiving stories are all written and dispatched before the last of May."

"Where do you get your ideas for Thanksgiving stories", I asked. "Where will I look for materials?"

"Go to old local books and papers," said Mr. Butterworth. "Town histories, anniversary addresses and sermons. I never lose an opportunity to read over such documents. The library at Worcester has made a specialty of collecting such material, and the Boston Public Library is rich in it also. In almost every paper you will find at least one picturesque incident recounted, or anecdote told, which will give you an idea. Then you build your story up around that, having due regard for the accuracy of the historical associations which you introduce.

"Once get the central idea, the motif, and the rest will come. The characters will present themselves, and work out for you in your mind the things they ought to do. They will haunt you, and give you no rest, until the story, is written."

"Are you being haunted that way now?" I asked, secretly hoping that if I could get a glimpse of these ghostly visitors some part of their attentions might be diverted to myself.

"I've just one Thanksgiving story left in my mind," said Mr. Butterworth. "Except for that I've written myself completely out."

"Would you be willing to tell me what it is?" I asked, trembling at my own audacity, but hurrying on to say. "And then tell me how you are going to write it?"

"Why certainly," was the answer. "This is it."

Now this story has not been written yet. That is, it had not been written the last time I saw Mr. Butterworth, because he had had so much else to do. It certainly was very good of him to let me and the public into the secrets of his workshop in that way, and I hope no one will be so mean as to steal his idea and write out the story before he does. Although if anybody did this I am quite sure the manuscript would be returned in one of those bulky envelopes, because the editors would be sure to prefer to wait for the version of the same story which Mr. Butterworth is to write.

"This is the thought," Mr. Butterworth continued. "Many years ago an old Indian, living at Quinnebaug, heard that the white men had landed on Shawmut, and were building themselves houses there in which to live. Taking with him his twelve-year-old son, the two walked all the way to Shawmut, now Boston, a distance of fifty miles, carrying with them a bushel and a half of corn which they had raised. This was the first Indian corn ever seen by the white settlers of Shawmut. Quinnebaug was where Dudley now is.

"The Indian boy lived to be a very old man, and when he was a hundred years old he went to Boston for another visit. This time he was invited to come, as the guest of the town, to a Thanksgiving dinner given him in commemoration of that other visit which he had made with his father so many years before. This was when Governor Shute was in office, and the Indian visitor was no doubt entertained at the Province House, then the best known "tavern" of the place, and standing where the Boston Tavern now stands. In it was a famous banquet hall, in which the dinner was no doubt served. Cannot you see in your imagination," said Mr. Butterworth. "what a notable scene that room would present? Governor Shute and the venerable savage would be sitting at the head of the table, with the distinguished men of the colony in the picturesque dress of that time, below them. Here," he added, "is the idea and the setting for a story. Plot, characters and incidents will come to you when you begin to study the situation."

I drew a long breath, unconscious until I did so of how closely I had been following him. "How did you get this particular idea?" I asked.

"I went out to Dudley not long ago, to read a poem at a gathering there. A minister preached an anniversary sermon, and in it told of these Indians and their two visits. Afterwards I looked up the historical records of the visits."

"Which of your Thanksgiving stories do you like best?" I asked.

"I think," said the writer, stopping a moment to bring the work of other years to mind, "that I like best 'Wych Hazel, the Jew,' the story of the old Jew's money jars, and the strange tree which blossomed in the late autumn, when all the other flowers are dying or dead. That, and 'The Haunted Oven,' the story of the loaves of bread baked on a gravestone. The gravestone, you know, was an old one which had been replaced by one of newer pattern. A workman used the broad, flat stone to repair the bottom of a brick oven, and the letters on it impressed what was taken to be a warning on the bottom of the loaves of bread."

"How long does it take you to write a story?" I continued, anxious to know the whole business.

"Two or three days, when the fever is really 'on.'"

"And how do you feel after the story is done?" I persisted. "I mean do your characters take such hold on you that when you have killed off a favorite you go out and walk the streets, as Dickens is said to have done after he wrote the chapter in which the story of the death of Little Nell is told?"

"Not just that, I think. I always feel tired, though, and all worn out, and don't want to do anything for a day or two only just lie around and rest, and be let alone. While I am resting I like to have agreeable persons around me; and the less they know the better."

The last words raised in me a sudden, awful fear. When I had come he had seemed glad to see me. "Mr. Butterworth," I faltered, "have you just finished a story?"

He looked at me a moment, questioningly, and saw the point. "Oh, no! No!" he cried in protest. "I didn't mean that. I mean folks who talk philosophy, and science, and such things, when I want to rest."

I wonder if that was just his kindness of heart, trying to make me feel comfortable again.

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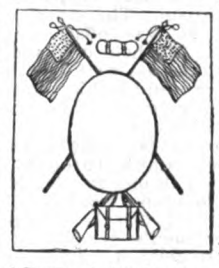
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1 Ribbon and Daisy design, 4x5 inches.
1 Conventional corner design 8x8 inches.
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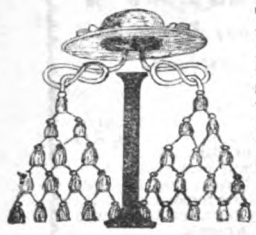
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Ancient and Mediæval Head-gear.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



It is impossible to fix upon a time in human history of which it may be positively said that members of the human family did not wear something for the protection or adornment of the head. The crown, the ancient and universal mark of kings, princes and nobles, at first a fillet of gold worn to confine the hair and prevent its being dishevelled in the wind, developed in time into a turban-like structure. It was from this symbol of power and authority that the various forms of official head-covering have been evolved—the mortar, the bicocket of the King's retainers, the bonnet of the Doges of Venice, the mitre of the Bishop, the Cardinal's hat and the papal tiara.

Among the Orientals, the covering of the head was anciently one of the outward signs and expressions of grief. And it is not improbable that the square handkerchief which the Bedouin folds so that, when placed upon the head, the three corners will hang down over the shoulders and back, leaving the face exposed, is of very early origin, and was used by the Israelites in Scripture times, at least at weddings or as part of holiday attire. The hats mentioned in the book of Daniel may have been fillets of gold to which the wearers were entitled, being nobles; or cloaks by which their heads could be covered in case of need. If the latter, they were an early form of the hood which became the wearer of all classes in many parts of Europe in the Middle Ages of Christianity. Official head-dresses were provided, with the other sacerdotal garments to be worn by the sons of Aaron. They are called "bonnets" in the King James version of the Old Testament Scriptures, and the term is explained to mean caps, probably cup-shaped, of fine texture and workmanship. They were distinct from the mitre of the high-priest, which was to consist of a coil of twisted linen covered with blue lace and ornamented in front with an inscribed golden plate.

There are certain indications that some sort of head covering was worn constantly in ancient times, both in-doors and out, and that whatever came into general use in the Middle Ages under the name of hat, cap, bonnet, or hood, was intended to be worn in addition to the other. We have for example, a representation of the Venetian Doge's bonnet in the sculptured arms of the Foscari. In a portrait of the Doge Loredano, we see this bonnet worn over what resembles a plain linen night-cap, having strings which fall down to the shoulders. In France, early in the fifteenth century, caps were regarded as superfluous articles of dress, to be worn only in wet weather, or when the wearer went from the city into the country. And we see in the paintings belonging to that century a large number of caps and hats worn over some other kind of head-dress.



HOOD—XV. CENTURY.

The term bonnet, under different lingual variations, was applied in Western Europe in the fifteenth century, and even earlier, to a distinctive kind of head-gear, probably originating in a particular kind of material, or referring to the quality of the material used in the manufacture. It soon came to be applied to a rimless cap of soft material worn both in and out of doors.

It is interesting to recall the legend accounting for the invention of felt, which has become such an important material in the manufacture of head-gear. It was used for the first caps made in France. The legend also accounts for the acceptance of St. Clement by the hatters of Continental Europe as their patron saint and for the celebration, by the hatters, of St. Clement's day on the 23d of November. That saint is generally supposed to have been the fourth occupant of the Episcopal See of Rome, holding the same about the years 91 to 100 of the Christian era. Those were times of persecution and Clement, being obliged to flee therefrom, suffered from blistered feet in his wanderings. To avoid this discomfort he put some refuse wool in his sandals. He found that after a time the wool became worked by his feet into a uniformly compact substance. He subsequently caused this substance to be *manufactured* (an improvement upon his process of *pedi*facture,) and applied to various articles of apparel.

It has sometimes been stated that hats were not worn in Europe until the fifteenth century. The fact is that the distinction was not made until subsequent to that period, between the various articles of head-gear. It is certain, however, that the use of what we now call hats, in contradistinction to caps and hoods, became more general in that century than ever before, albeit without at once affecting the popular use of the hood.

The hood originated in the pointed cape or capooch, the adoption of which in the thirteenth century gave the name to the religious order of the Capuchins. This order was a branch of the Franciscans, and its founder claimed that the capooch was of the same pattern as that worn by St. Francis. The portion of the hood intended to cover the shoulders was called, as its form changed by lengthening and narrowing, the tippet or liripoop. The tippet being twisted about the hood, caused it to assume the form of a turban. And some one tried the experiment of putting his head into the opening in the side of the hood intended for the face, and of wearing the hood horizontally instead of vertically as had been intended. Thence the hood drifted from a useful and comfortable article of dress into a merely ornamental appendage, and began to go out of fashion. For a while it was carried slung over the shoulders at the end of the tippet, so that it could be worn on the head if desired. It finally became the mark of a scholastic degree, as in our modern colleges. The liripoops and tippets, after they had constituted in a variety of ways a part of the head-gear, became a part of clerical and scholastic dress, surviving possibly in the stole of the clergy of the present. It is surmised that it survives also in the hat of modern times, and particularly in the long solemn hat band of crape or silk worn in some localities by ali who follow a corpse to the grave, and in other places, in the scarfs worn over the shoulders at funerals.

TURBAN—XV. CENTURY.

The Fifteenth Century probably presents the greatest variety and most extravagant fashions in the matter of head-gear to be found in our review of the subject. There were felt hats with broad brims turned up both back and front and attached to the crown by a button,



FROM HOOD TO HAT.

often jeweled. There were caps with triangular crowns; and hats suggesting those worn at the present day by coal-heavers and longshoremen and called sea 'westets. Fur was largely used in the manufacture and decoration of hats; some were lined with it, others were entirely covered with it. Fur hats were worn even by the common people; and it was to express his sympathy with the bourgeois that Louis XI. of France wore such a hat; and to indicate his appeal to the religious feeling of the times, he kept it stuck full of little sacred images. The gallants of his day wore hats of the same style, but much bedecorated with feathers and jewels. The eccentricities of the English were illustrated by a variety of shapes in hats, among which the steeple hat of Edward IV.'s time was the most sensible, being designed to air the crown of the wearer's head.

The head-gear of the Middle ages may be studied best by examining the pictures painted at that time. These reveal some curious phases of the subject. In the fifteenth century lived the Italian painter, Filippine Lippi, whom Browning has done much to immortalize, though some of his paintings, altar pieces, of his, representing the "Adoration of the Magi," are extant. In these he evidently depicted some of the hats worn in Italy in his day; if not, he possessed a genius for designing fashions in millinery that would have been his fortune in these days. But we have other evidences of the luxurious ornamentation in feathers and jewels bestowed upon the head-gear in Italy in that age. We find the Italian men adopting suggestions for their hats from the vegetable world and from like sources, precisely as the women of more modern times have done. In Lippi's pictures we have hats evidently suggested by a pile of melons; others in imitation of bee-hives and conch-shells. His pictures include all kinds of fantastic hoods, and fezzes plain and ornamented. Uccello, a painter of battle scenes, decked his Italian soldiers in the most fantastic head-gear imaginable, making them appear like the bearers of so many Chinese lanterns upon their shoulders. On the other hand, Pisano, in his picture of "St. Anthony and St. George," places upon the head of the latter saint a sensible hat—a broad-brimmed straw, having only a feather to distinguish it from that of a present day Southern farmer. Altogether, it would seem that there has been no style of hat, cap or bonnet adopted since then, that had not its prototype in the fifteenth century.



ITALIAN.

While these fantastic extravagances depicted by Lippi were in vogue, the fez was imported from the East and became popular all over Europe, assuming varying heights in various countries. It was usually worn with long full hair, and proved a sensible and admirable style of head dress. But in England, where the steeple crown and other idiosyncracies were tolerated, it excited the criticism of the moralists, who were perhaps scandalized by a fashion derived from the Mahometans.

Regarding the color of hats much of interest might be said. In Italy at one time bankrupts were compelled by law to wear green hats. The white hat was the badge of a political party in Ghent once in the fourteenth century; and later at Oxford, it was supposed to be the badge of Radicalism. The severity of the form in the steeple hat was offset by its tall crown, for example. The hats depicted by Lippi, copied their colors, as well as their forms from nature, and we find in his pictures hats with green crowns, gold trimmings and rims with straw colored linings.

Probably the most curious fact among those gleaned in our desultory ramble through the various kinds of millinery in use in the Middle Ages, is this: the fashions we have thus far examined were intended for the exclusive use of men. It was for men's heads that all these extravagances were devised. The men in that age would have been the objects of the law prohibiting the wearing of tall hats in a theater, had there been such laws in those days. Precisely when these elaborate styles became the object of feminine envy, it would be impossible to decide. But it was probably as the fashions for men began to settle down to the degree of conservative simplicity which they have since maintained. We find on the other hand the styles of feminine head-gear constantly changing and ever of varied forms; and now again returning to something that has been tried in a previous age. The cavalier's hat of the age of Charles II becomes the Gainsborough in the time of the painter of that name, and has come in vogue at different periods since. And now when we have a sex distinction in head-gear generally recognized, the man's hat is again made the object of woman's aspiration, and is from time to time appropriated by her; without, however, her fully relinquishing her hold upon the elaborate styles she found in use among the men of the Middle Ages, and from which she has succeeded in varying but little. Perhaps there is the suggestion for a philosophical screed here, but upon that we shall not at present enter.

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It is said that the chafing dish originated with the Israelitish women, and that it has been used through each succeeding generation by both men and women.

For those who have plenty of money there are little silver chafing dishes about four inches square, which are used for serving a rarebit or a bird individually. There is no lamp under this small dish, but there is hot water in the boiler, to keep the bird warm; of course it is cooked before it is placed in this small dish.

A tray should always be used under the chafing dish, as there is so much danger of setting fire to the tablecloth from the overflow of the alcohol, when no tray is used.

When a recipe calls for milk or cream, the hot water pan should be used in all cases, to avoid all possibility of burning; but when something is to be sauted, or fried, this pan is omitted and the dish is placed directly over the flame; constant watching and turning and shaking is necessary, however, as the alcohol flame is hot and comes in direct contact with the metal pan. Oysters are usually cooked in the blazer only, at first, and then, when they are plump, if a sauce is to be added to them, the hot water pan is introduced underneath.

We have some good recipes for oysters cooked in the chafing dish which possibly some have not yet tried.

Put a pint of oysters into the blazer and when the edges begin to curl put the blazer into the hot water pan and add the seasonings, one flat teaspoon salt, a little paprica and a tablespoonful of lemon juice. Beat the yolks of two eggs, add a little of the oyster liquor to the yolks, from the pan, and then add the eggs to the oysters. Serve on slices of buttered toast.

CREAMED OYSTERS.

Parboil one pint oysters, drain and set aside in a warm place. Make a sauce by using two tablespoons butter, four tablespoons flour, one-half teaspoon salt, a little pepper and two cups of hot milk. Add the oysters, and, if desired, a teaspoonful of onion juice. Serve on buttered toast.

This sauce may be used for any creamed dish—shrimps, sweetbreads, mushrooms, fish or chicken.

FRIED OYSTERS.

Wash and drain the oysters and season with salt and pepper. Roll in fine crumbs, then in beaten egg (to which a tablespoonful of cold water has been added) and then in the crumbs again. Put some olive oil or a little butter into the blazer and when hot put in the oysters and brown them on both sides.

This last recipe should not be attempted for a large number of guests, as it takes sometime to do it, and only a few oysters can be done at a time; not more than four people should be regaled in this way, as, by the time the hostess has her own ready, every one else has finished.

LOBSTER A LA NEWBURG.

Remove the lobster meat from the shells and cut into small pieces. Two medium sized lobsters are used for this recipe. Put into the blazer four tablespoons butter and when it is melted add the lobster and let it cook five minutes. Then add one-half teaspoon salt, one-fourth teaspoon pepper, two tablespoons each of brandy and sherry wine and a grating of nutmeg. Beat the yolks of four eggs and stir thoroughly into them one cup of cream and then stir both into the lobster mixture. Serve as soon as the eggs thicken the sauce.

DEVILLED CRABS.

Make a white sauce by melting one tablespoon butter and adding one tablespoon flour and one cup hot milk. Then add the yolks of three hard boiled eggs, which have been rubbed through a sieve, and season with salt and pepper and a teaspoonful lemon juice and the same amount of wine. Add one cup of crab meat and one-fourth cup canned mushrooms cut in small pieces. Serve on toast.

Here is the French fashion of serving sardines.

Remove the tails and skins from a box of sardines and warm them in the oven. It is necessary to have two chafing dishes to make this recipe. In one blazer heat some butter or oil and in it saute some small squares or round or diamond shaped pieces of bread. In the other blazer, which should be over the hot water pan, put the yolks of four eggs, well beaten, with one teaspoon each of vinegar and made mustard, one-fourth teaspoon salt and one tablespoon butter. Stir the sauce until it is quite thick; then serve the sardines on the pieces of toast and pour the sauce over them.

CREAMED PEAS.

Drain, rinse and cover with boiling water one can of peas and set aside; melt two tablespoons butter, add one tablespoon flour, one teaspoon sugar and one-half teaspoon salt; when thoroughly blended, strain and add the peas with a third of a cup of milk and let cook until the liquid begins to bubble.

CHEESE FONDUE.

Melt two tablespoons butter and add one teaspoon flour, one-half teaspoon each of soda and mustard, a little pepper and gradually three-fourths of a cup of milk; when the sauce boils add one-fourth pound cheese cut into small pieces and one-half cup stale bread crumbs. Stir until well melted and blended and then add three eggs which have been beaten until light and serve at once.

ENGLISH MONKEY.

Melt one tablespoon butter and add one cup cheese; when melted add one cup fine bread crumbs which have previously been allowed to stand in one cup of milk; then add one egg lightly beaten.

MEXICAN RAREBIT.

Take one pint of tomato pulp from which the seeds have been removed and season with onion. Put a heaping tablespoon of butter into the blazer; add the tomato and when hot six eggs, slightly beaten, half a teaspoon of salt and a little pepper. Stir until the contents are of a creamy consistency. If possible, serve on brownbread toast.

Never serve anything on crackers when you can get toast. Almost everything is ten per cent. at least better when served on hot buttered toast than when served on cold crackers. If you must use crackers, then toast and butter them.

CREAMED MUSHROOMS.

Melt three tablespoons butter in the blazer and in it saute the mushrooms; sprinkle them with salt and pepper, add two tablespoons flour and one cup of cream gradually; stir until the sauce boils, being sure the flour is well cooked, and serve on toast.

HASHED POTATO.

Put a little butter in the bottom of the blazer and then add three cups of cold chopped potato which has already been salted. Pour over the potato a little hot stock and put some small pieces of butter over the top. Cover and cook slowly without stirring until thoroughly heated. Of course these will not be brown.

WELSH RAREBIT.

Put one tablespoon butter into the blazer over the hot water pan; when melted add one half cup beer or ale and one-half pound soft American Cheese, cut into small pieces. Mix together one-third teaspoon salt, one teaspoon mustard and a few grains paprica; add one beaten egg and mix thoroughly, and when the cheese has melted add these ingredients and let it all cook until properly thickened. Toast bread on one side only, and serve the rarebit upon the untoasted side.



CHAFING DISH, BUTTER BALLS, CRACKERS AND OLIVES.

GOLDEN BUCK.

Prepare a rarebit in one chafing dish; break eggs into the blazer of another dish, in which you have boiling salted water. When the eggs are cooked and the rarebit is served on the toast, place one egg on the top of each slice.

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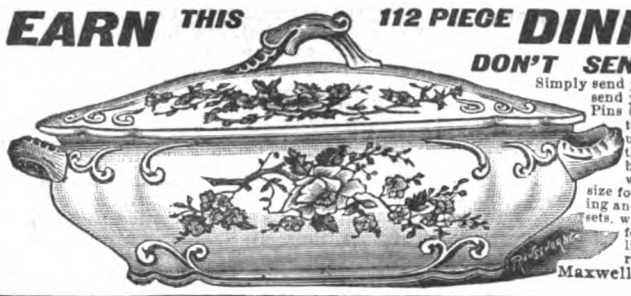
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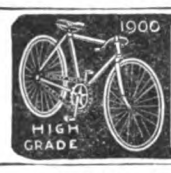
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The Grand Canon of the Colorado.

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AMERICANS have not yet begun to appreciate the wonders and the beauties of their own country. They travel along the beaten tracks, follow the lines of railroads, and visit the cities, but few of them realize that leaving the beaten paths they may easily come upon scenes more wondrous than any to be found in the whole world. Our southwest is teeming with beauty and marvels little guessed by those hundreds of travelers who speed over the desert in railroad coaches.

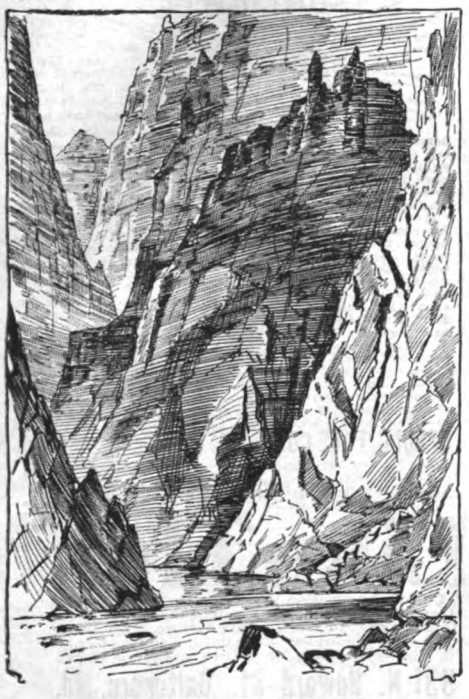
There is probably nothing in the world to exceed in beauty, wonder and sublimity the trip to the Grand Canon of the Colorado. This river rises in the Rocky Mountains, and flows through Colorado and Arizona touching Utah, Nevada and California, cutting its way through strata millions of years old, until it finds the sea level in the Gulf of California.

The Grand Canon is in the northern part of Arizona and extends in a generally east and west direction. It is about sixty-five miles from the railroad at Flagstaff and is easily reached by a stage line.

The first view of this mighty chasm is truly awful. Standing upon its brink, the eye wanders first over a vast pile of mountain peaks cut into curious shapes and worn into the semblance of grotesque forms and figures. Then, as the eye becomes accustomed to the great depth, he beholds the river itself, a seemingly tiny stream, yellow as gold, and winding its torturous way a mile and a quarter beneath his feet.

To adequately describe the Grand Canon is an utter impossibility. One can but attempt to describe its impressions upon him; but the mysterious glory, the strange sensations of insignificance which one feels can only be felt—not told. It is easy to say that the Canon is a mile and a quarter deep and from wall to wall across the top the distance is thirteen miles. That all means but little. Think rather that Mt. Washington and the whole Presidential Range might be tipped into it and leave room at the top for more; the grand cataract of Niagara could be seen only with a powerful glass if it were at the bottom, while the giant redwoods of California would appear like toy trees if viewed from the brink. The river itself is larger than the Hudson, yet it looks like a tiny brook, while on either side rise the sculptured walls—sculptured by that most wonderful of all artists—Nature, and the tool with which she worked was the most wonderful chisel the world has ever known—water.

But now let us see why this Colorado River is so strange, why it so far exceeds all other rivers in the world of wonders. In the early ages of our continent when our eastern hills were young mountains, and our western mountains were in their childhood, a great sea stretched from the Rockies to the Sierra Nevada Mountains and the slopes were sandy beaches not unlike those of New Jersey and New England today. There we find to-day the mark of the ripples of that ancient sea far up the mountain sides. Now slowly all that lake was raised, together with the mountains about it. The water drained off to the sea through the present water courses, leaving a plateau eight thousand feet above the sea level, over which to-day the sand of that ancient sea is blown into drifts and in parts of which no human being is ever seen. But as the plateau was raised the rivers must find an outlet and they cut through the solid rock keeping pace to the rising land. Then



WITHIN THE GRAND CANON.

great lava streams flowed out over the surface and the whole was folded and bent by the mighty forces of the internal heat of the earth. This is a large story to comprehend at a glance and as the eye wanders over the surface of the walls of the Canon, and the wonderful colors stand out before him, if he can read the story there outspread he may study the history of all the ages upon the open page, from the dark trap rock to the lighter sandstones, limestones, marbles and granites. Scarcely a color but is found there; every shade of grey, lavender, red, brown and yellow, even to pure white. These colors are often in straight parallel lines sometimes so twisted and bent that one cannot trace their beginning and end. This wonder of color does, in part, compensate for the lack of foliage and forest. This is a land of rock, not of soil.

But the river itself—that innocent-looking stream—what shall we find it like when we have climbed down those precipitous sides? Seated on its margin we find it a rushing, roaring torrent, sweeping on, in many places, more rapidly than the Rapids of Niagara and bringing with it the waste that it has torn from the mountains and which it will spread out on the shore of the Gulf.

Several times in history parties have attempted to explore the Colorado River. In 1869 Maj. Powell and his party succeeded in going down the river in boats. This expedition was attended with the greatest dangers. In many places they were swept on by the current, striking against the sharp rocks in the bed, with walls on either side so steep that it would be impossible to escape should the boats become useless.

At dawn when the rising sun dispels the mists about the temples and shrines of the Canon, or when the sunset lines touch the eastern peaks and turrets with pink and gold, the scene is one of such marvelous beauty that the soul reaches to look "through Nature to Nature's God." But it is when the white moonlight streams down into those stormy depths that the Canon takes on an atmosphere of mystery which can never be forgotten. The temples and castles of the sunlight seem tenanted with weird hosts of unknowable beings silently keeping watch and ward over this, the greatest work of our great mother—Nature.

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95	Gipsy's Warning.	717	Some Day I'll wander back.	1260	Pardon came too late.	1462	I'll never go out with Riley.
107	Back to Old Virginny.	748	Texas Ranger.	1278	Takes a Girl to do it.	1466	She may've seen Better Days.
113	Two Orphans.	761	Dying Girl's Message.	1287	Push dem Clouds away.	1471	My Dad's the Engineer.
171	Drunkard's Lone Child.	806	Photograph of Mother.	1290	The Broken Home.	1484	I never Loved till I met You.
172	Tenting Old Camp Ground.	920	Letter that never came.	1298	Man in the Moon.	1488	If They would only Write.
222	Sherman's March to the Sea.	928	Save my Mother's Picture.	1304	In Old Madrid.	1494	Denny Murphy's Daughter.
242	Farmer's Daughter.	938	Dad's Dinner Pail.	1311	He never cares to Wander.	1497	You are my Sweetheart.
254	I left Ireland.	952	Dying Cowboys Lament.	1327	Still the World goes on.	1498	Better than Gold.
302	Butcher Boy.	972	Package of Old Letters.	1336	Kiss and Let's make up.	1500	Let Me take My Place again.
313	Old Oaken Bucket.	988	Lost on the "Lady Elgin."	1344	When Summer Comes.	1504	Malone forgot He was Dead.
331	Remember the Poor Tramp.	1000	Song that reached my Heart.	1346	Volunteer Organist.	1514	Pictures from Life.
338	Answer to Gipseys Warning.	1014	Jesse James.	1349	The Widow's Plea.	1524	A Girl in the World for us all.
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465	Arkansaw Traveller.	1114	Johnstown Flood.	1392	I'll take you Home.	1568	Back to the only Girl I Love.
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MILLIONS OF CUCUMBERS.

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WHERE do all the pickles come from?

It is told of Dr. Oliver Wendell Holmes that the only criticism he made upon the manuscript of a young woman's novel which he was once so kind as to read was this admonition, written in pencil upon the margin of a page which described a picnic to which a child character went, "Don't let this child eat pickles!"

In spite of the advice of so eminent an authority, children, and grown people too, go on eating pickles. How many ever stop to wonder where the pickles come from, or to ask who raise the cucumbers packed so symmetrically into neat glass jars?

Nearly all of the pickles which the Boston market uses come from the Connecticut river valley, whose broad sunny meadows furnish just the sandy soil which seems best adapted to make cucumber vines flourish. Hail, frost, worms and low prices have driven out many of the fields of tobacco which once were a staple crop on these meadow farms, and in their place many farmers have planted cucumbers, as a quick growing substitute which yields a ready cash return. Up and down the Connecticut valley, pickle factories have taken the place of the tobacco houses in which the wilted stalks of the nicotine plant were hung to dry. In fact the pickle factory which I visited is an old tobacco house converted into this new use. Where once there were long tiers of poles on which the tobacco was hung, there are now rows of enormous tanks into each of which a hundred barrels of cucumbers can be put to pickle.

Only at this stage of their manufacture pickles are reckoned by weight and not by measure. When I was at the factory fifty tons of the year's crop of cucumbers had been taken in, but the picking of the crop had only just been begun and the yield was not proving anything near an average. Sometimes, in the height of a good year's pick, thirty tons have been taken in at this factory in a single day. A hundredweight of the green fruit would count out at least a thousand cucumbers. That would be twenty thousand for a ton, and a million for fifty tons. And this is only one of many such gathering places. This factory belongs to a Boston firm. The farmers for several miles around bring their cucumbers here. The pick must be sorted into two sizes, and is brought to the factory in bags. The smaller and more valuable size includes all cucumbers under four inches long. For these the grower is paid a cent a pound. The second size includes all between four inches and five and a half inches long. The price paid for these is thirty cents a hundredweight. The farmers' wagons back up to a platform at the broad door of the factory, and unload their bags. Those containing the different sizes are weighed separately, loaded on to a little flat car and trundled on a very narrow-guage railway back among the tanks, where the bags are emptied of their contents into the tank of their respective kind which is being filled just then. Salt is added and enough water to keep the brine of a proper strength. When a tank is filled the contents are not disturbed until wanted, and will keep for an indefinite time. Some of the tanks are still filled with a part of last year's crop, and the cucumbers in them are sound, solid and fresh looking. As fast as needed at the finishing factory of this firm, in Boston, the cucumbers are put into barrels and shipped. Many of the large ones are sold direct from the salt pickle for lunch counters, and the consumption of foreign born residents who prefer them in brine vinegar pickle. The others are sorted down more closely as to size, put into vinegar, and seasoned. The large ones are marketed in barrels; the smaller ones in glass.

Of course the income from a cucumber field does not begin to equal that from a field of tobacco, but, on the other hand, the expense and risk are not nearly so great, and the cash returns are more prompt. Most farmers who raise cucumbers put from one to three acres into the crop, which has the advantage to begin with of not requiring a heavy outlay for fertilizer. The seed is planted in hills from three to five feet apart each way, and one forkfull of dressing in a hill is all the fertilizer needed. Another advantage is that the seeds can be planted with the best results from about June tenth to June fifteenth, a time of the year when the farmer has his spring's work done and haying not begun. Planting at this time does not bring the seedlings up until the "striped bug," that dread enemy of all garden vines, is practically gone for the summer. The crop is ready to begin to harvest about August first, when haying is finished and the farmer has comparatively little work to do. The harvest lasts about six weeks. The cucumbers are picked every other day, two days serving to grow them to the most profitable length. Picking them is about as back-breaking work as can be imagined. It is neither up nor down, but a constant change from one to the other. I know, because I helped pick two acres. After the "cukes" are picked they are poured down on the grass at the edge of the field to be sorted. All that will go through a four-inch hole in a board are put into a pile by themselves. The rest are thirty-centers.

In a good year an acre of vines ought to yield a ton of cucumbers at a picking, but it is very rarely that all the conditions are favorable enough to do this. The plants need hot, moist weather, particularly at night, and many years a farmer does well who gets five hundred pounds from an acre.

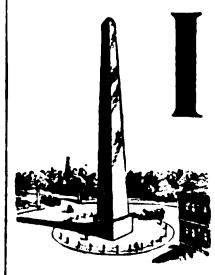
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THE legend of the mistletoe is an inheritance from the religion of the Druids. The mistletoe was gathered and hung in small sprays by the worshipers over their doors as an amulet against evil. The kissing privilege connected with mistletoe during the days of Yule is probably the most familiar relic of its traditions.



IN Sidney, Australia, is one of the strangest monuments in the world. This odd spire is a perfectly plain shaft, being a hundred and eighty feet above the street level. It does not commemorate any event but is simply a vent for the sewer system of the city. The great sewers meet here, with their deadly gases, which are thrown off through this shaft. If some such provision were not made, in less than twenty-four hours the whole country round about would be strewn with wreckage and the air filled with poisonous gases, as it would be impossible to confine these foul gases in the ramified sewers until they reached the outlet into the sea.

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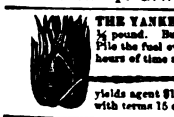
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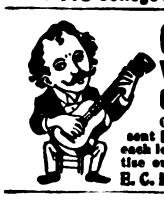


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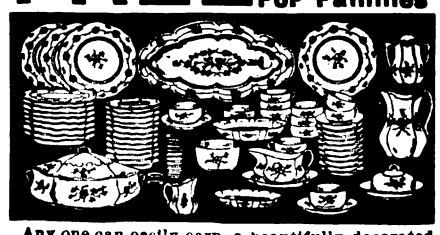
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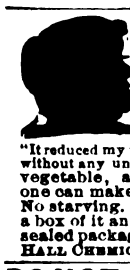
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OPIUM and Liquor Habit cured in 10 to 20 days. No pay till cured. Write DR. J. L. STEPHENS CO., Dept. C1, Lebanon, Ohio.

A BIG OFFER 50c. MADE IN A MINUTE! If you will hang up in the P. O., or some public place, the two show bills that we send, we will give you a 50c. cert., and send it in advance with samples and bills. This will trouble you about one minute, and then if you want to work on salary at $50 or $100 per month, let us know. We pay in advance. GIANT OXIE CO., 125 Willow St., Augusta, Me.

MUSIC IN THE AIR!



I'd leave ma happy home for you
The girl I loved in Sunny Tennessee
I don't care if you never wake up
I'm the warmest member in the land
Just tell her that I loved her too
I guess I'll have to telegraph my
I'm glad I met you Mary (baby
Just as the Sun went down
She was happy till she met you
Mid the green fields of Virginia
I don't care if you never come back
A Hot time in the old town to-night
When you do the rag-time dance
When you ain't got no money you need'nt come around
When a Nigger makes 100 99 goes on his back
The home of the girl I love
I love you in the same old
Because I love you (way
Get your money's worth.
Mammy's Little Pumpkin Colored Coons
She was bred in old Kentucky
How I love my Lu (buckey
On the banks of the Wabash
Just one girl

Our new song books contain all the above songs; also many others. We will send sample song book with one piece sheet music, catalogue of 1600 songs, and our 16 page magazine 3 months, all for 10 cents. We will also send you a $1.00 Due Bill which entitles you to $1.00 worth of goods free from our list. This firm is reliable.—Editor. Song Supply Co. 373 Dearborn St., Chicago, Ill.

SILVER CAKE BASKET



FREE FREE

We have lately taken a large amount of triple plate silverware on a debt and will send you this Elegant, Gold lined Silver Cake Basket free, all charges paid for a club of six subscribers at 25c. each. This **Cake Basket** is of the latest pattern and will wear a life time. It is the finest silver plate, highly decorated with beautiful patent rolled edge. We only have a few of them left so get up your club of six subscribers at 25c. each, to-day, and you will always enjoy it. You can sell this basket for $3.98 in a minute. If you can't get up the club, send us $1.38 cash and we will send the Basket by express and include one year's subscription. We also have a fine five Bottle Silver Castor and a Superb Silver Butter Dish at the same price if you prefer either one to the Basket. Address,

COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.



TALKS WITH GIRLS.

CONDUCTED BY COUSIN MARION.

Ugh, dears, don't the March winds blow, but what do we care if our hearts are warm, and they should ever be kept warm. It is easy to do if you will, and it is pleasant not only to you, but it is doing the good Lord's will. And let the winds blow again, for they drive out the frost and sweep in the flowers of Spring and all the world is glad and fragrant and beautiful. This for the first Spring month, and now to our letter.

The first one is from Athens, Ohio, and "Sadness" wants to know what she can do to "do something," and I can't tell her. So many girls everywhere want to know the same thing, and I can only say to them that they must do what they find to do and so work out their own salvation. She asks too about a couple, each nineteen years of age. Don't marry till the man is old enough, say, twenty-five, and they should see each other a good deal or by the time they have waited that long, the chances are that the man will have changed his mind.

H. I. F., Gatesville, N. C.—Consult the advertising pages of any of the magazines and you will find the addresses of persons who can give you all the information you seek.

L. R., Rochester, N. Y.—You may ask a young man to act as your escort when you really need his services. (2) Don't try to learn hypnotism. (3) A ring on the little finger has no especial significance.

Beatrice, Peach, Va.—Veils are worn for ornament as well as comfort, and the wearer suits her taste.

Margaret, Southbridge, Mass.—Asks me to give her some hints on an essay for her graduation and I must decline her request and all others of the kind as space forbids, and besides, the beauty of an essay is its originality. Write your own essays, girls, and they will be better than anybody can write for you.

Sissie, Jackson, Miss.—Stop writing to the soldier sweetheart and perhaps that will make him less cold. Or when you write tell him all about other young men who are coming to see you. (2) Don't pay any attention to the man who says he loves you and is careless and neglectful. He isn't the kind for a good husband. (3) Go driving only with young men you know very well. (4) You may ask a caller to call again, and you may ask an escort in if it is early, but not after ten. (5) Beware of the drummer who compliments your good looks. He is a wolf in sheep's clothing.

Iris, Howell, Ind.—It is quite natural to ask a man to call when you meet him the first time, if you are mutually pleased. Know first, however, who he is. (2) Acknowledge business acquaintances on the street only when you know them very well. (3) It is not demanded that a lady rise when a man is presented, but it is more gracious to the man.

Eileen, Evansville, Ind.—Take the man's arm—and don't call him a "gent." It is not necessary for him to ask you to take it. Just take it as a matter of course. (3) See advertisements in COMFORT.

Charlotte, Neligh, Neb.—Card etiquette is quite elaborate in the cities. You need only to leave your card and your mother's, generally only your own. (2) See answer above to Margaret, Southbridge, Mass.

Anxious, Yellow Creek, Pa.—Don't try to bleach brown hair white. Let it alone if you don't want to injure yourself permanently. (2) Don't receive callers in the parlor in negligee attire.

Alice June, Valley, Ia.—Dry your hands thoroughly over the fire after washing, and before exposure to the air. Wear gloves at night. Use almond meal, or ask your druggist for any one of a dozen preparations that are good. (2) There is no "harmless" application to make your face and neck plump.

Violet, Versailles, Ky.—The young man is silly, and you are not much better. Treat him politely and with indifference.

A. M. D., Quincy, Ills.—Dream books are utterly worthless and you are better off without them.

Purity, Creamery, Ia.—You may allow a young man to put his arm around you when you are engaged to him; not otherwise.

Success, Markley, Texas.—Do not marry the man who has lost the respect of the community, even if you do foolishly love him. Do you want to go down to his low level? You can't raise him above it. (2) It is not good form to accept expensive presents from young men.

Rose Bud, Cobb, Texas.—Yes, now that you are engaged, you should give up the other young men except in a general and formal way.

Nada, Lake City, Cal.—A year is a very proper length of time for an engagement. (2) Address Superintendent, Bellevue Hospital, New York, for information about trained nurses. (3) Give your poetry to the editor of your local paper.

Dew Drop, Rockport, Mo.—Let the young man ask you to write to him, and don't exchange rings at present.

Addie, Herr, Mont.—Ask your mother the question you have asked me.

June, Leon, Ia.—There is no set form for congratulations at a wedding. Say anything that is pleasant and sincere. (2) In receiving thanks it is customary to say, "Not at all," or, "Pray, don't mention it."

Opal, Hopkinsville, Ky.—Certainly, if you love a nice respectable man with a cork leg and a red head, marry him if he wants you to. Love is blind.

Rose, Fair View, Texas.—Being engaged to the young man you are at liberty to visit at his home when he is badly hurt. (2) An arm bouquet is one worn hanging from the arm by a ribbon or chain.

Vain, Baltimore, Md.—Suppose you talk to your family physician about the color of your hands. See answer above to Alice June, Valley.

Sweet Pea, Elmdale Kans.—You did right in refusing to ride with the young man who insisted on kissing you. Your brother should give him a sound thrashing.

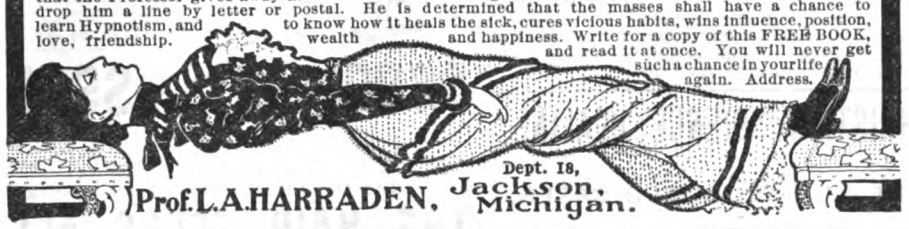
Madge, Platteville, Wis.—The best thing for the complexion is to wash in hot water often and thoroughly with castile soap, rubbing the skin briskly afterwards with a rough towel, and using some mild powder, talcum or arrowroot, and taking plenty of open air exercise with good plain food.

Fat Jack, Grand Rapids, Mich.—Some marriages beginning with an elopement have been very excellent and happy ones, but I should not advise it. Use your own judgment.

HYPNOTISM

The Wonder Of the Age.

Now is the time to take up Hypnotism. Do you know what marvelous strides it has lately made? Are you aware that it now stands as a vigorous and harmonious science—that the world's greatest scholars are keenly watching its developments—that it is proving itself the "right bower" of education and justice, of medicine and reform—and that hypnotists, in fine, seem personally to hold a leadership among their fellow mortals and the keys to riches, health and happiness? All this has been the progress of a very few years, and to those who desire a money-making and honorable profession the whole subject is one of most intense interest. Time was when this mysterious science held timid souls aloof. As things are now going it will soon be a positive danger *not* to know Hypnotism, and how to use its powers. The case is admirably stated in a FREE BOOK just published by the renowned Prof. L. A. Harraden. This book is called a "Key to the Mysteries of Hypnotism." It is the clearest, most complete and graphic review of the subject ever written. It explains the mysteries of Hypnotism from A to Z. It tells you just what Hypnotism is and what it will accomplish. It tells you how you may sway the minds of others, perform astounding feats, and produce amusement by the hour. The Professor is a thorough expert as well as a famous teacher, and he knows how to impart his facts in a clear and pleasing manner. What he doesn't know about Hypnotism you may be sure is not worth knowing. The mechanical features of the book are worthy of its precious contents. The Professor has spared no expense on it, for he wishes those who get a copy to treasure it and to read it. Besides being elegantly printed, it is adorned on every page with choice illustrations relating to the text. These cost considerable money, and some are surprised that the Professor gives away his book without charging one cent. It is free, nevertheless, to all who drop him a line by letter or postal. He is determined that the masses shall have a chance to learn Hypnotism, and to know how it heals the sick, cures vicious habits, wins influence, position, love, friendship, wealth and happiness. Write for a copy of this FREE BOOK, and read it at once. You will never get such a chance in your life again. Address.



Prof. L. A. HARRADEN, Dept. 18, Jackson, Michigan.

R. M. G., Joplin, Mo.—I do not know anything about the firm, but do not pay out any money until you have got the goods or their equivalent.

E. B., Sewall, Ia.—Take your attorney's advice and wait till the man gets the divorce. Do you want to go to the penitentiary for bigamy?

Brown Eyes, Red Bluff, Miss.—Always the quiet and retiring girl is preferred to the bolder one by men and women whose esteem is worth having.

Blossom, Attica, Ohio.—Don't have the wedding until the young man has gone into business. June is not far off.

Violet, Red Creek, Miss.—It is inexcusable for your escort to leave you and go out between the acts. Gentlemen do not do that. (2) Don't answer the letter from the young fellow you know so slightly.

M. M. B., Redwood Falls, Minn.—Write to the Literary Editor, Pioneer Press, St. Paul, inclosing stamp for reply.

Lottie C., Pittsburg, Pa.—Every girl is troubled sometime in her life with a persistent young man she doesn't like. Time is the only cure for it.

Country Girl, Rivers, Me.—A girl of sixteen should not marry a man of thirty or any other age. She should wait till she is twenty-one at least. (2) It is proper for a man to see you home from the depot after dark, if you know he is all right.

Sweet May, Hazard, Pa.—No, do not keep "steady company" with two young men. Gradually let one of them go. Do it your own way. There is no rule or advice that will apply generally.

Howard, Bremond, Texas.—Don't try to write poetry, dear. If you must write weave your fancies into little stories, in prose.

Rose, Bellville, Texas.—Young ladies don't usually present flowers to gentlemen, though there is no harm in it.

Now, dears, all your questions are answered, except some dreadful silly ones, and I hope you will profit by the answers; that we shall all meet again when the April showers are bringing out the lovely flowers of spring. By by.

COUSIN MARION.

A CASE OF PERFUMERY FOR YOU.

We have a great quantity of perfumery in cases which we wish to give to our friends without expense. It is most delicate and lasting and combines the various perfumes and fragrance of the flowers. Placed in a bureau drawer will impart delicious odor to all clothing, kerchiefs, etc. Sweeter than the mignonette. Send us four cents pay for shipping expenses and will send it with copy of our illustrated bargain book.

S. W. LANE & Co., Augusta, Maine.

FREE TO STRICTURED MEN.

A Sample Package of a Famous Remedy Sent Free to All.

Men Can Now Cure Themselves at Home Without Pain, Danger, Operation or Loss of Time.

Free sample packages of a most successful remedy for the cure of stricture are being mailed to all who write the Empire Medical Co. They have cured so many strictured men that the company has decided to send free sample packages to all who write in good faith. It is a home treatment for stricture, enlargement and irritation of the prostate gland, urethral inflammation and chronic mucous discharges.

Do not hesitate to write for a free sample. It will cost nothing, and will enable you to see how easy it is to obtain a cure without a particle of pain or suffering. The company wants to reach every man who is able to visit their office, as well as those who are unable to leave their home and prove to them that stricture and all other urethral troubles can be cured without operation or the use of instruments. A request to the Empire Medical Co., 404 Atlantic Ave., Dept. 23, Boston, Mass., stating that you desire a free sample package will be complied with. It will be mailed in a plain wrapper so that it may be examined privately at home.



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RING OR BRACELET FREE US ANY MONEY.

Send us your name and address on a postal card and we will send you, by return mail, a beautiful Tiffany Style simulative Opal or Ruby Stick Pin, FREE. We will also send you 12 ten-cent packages of our Imperishable Perfume, to sell for us among your friends, if you can. When sold, return us our money, and we will send you FREE your choice of a Heavily Plated Chain Bracelet, with padlock, or a Solid Gold Shell Belcher Birthday Ring. We guarantee every Ring and Bracelet as represented. Remember, it does not cost you one cent. We simply trust you with our goods. Write at once. Don't put off till tomorrow what can be done today. Address NATIONAL SUPPLY CO., Box 245, Detroit, Mich.

FREE SILK DRESS



Here is an honest advertisement. No beating around the bush. You can get full 10 to 15 yards of beautiful silk, Black, brown, blue, green or pink, in light or dark shades, and a beautiful mercury diamond breast pin for selling our remedies. We talk plain English & guarantee to do exactly as we say. We don't ask a cent. If you agree to sell only 6 boxes of our Positive Corn Cure at 25 cts a box, we send you the Salve by mail. When sold you send us the $1.50 and we send you the solid gold laid mercury diamond breast pin, together with our offer of a handsome silk dress, same day money is received. We make this extraordinary inducement to secure honest people and prove our Corn Cure the best on earth. There is no chance about it If you comply with the offer we shall send you; the silk dress (full 10 to 15 yards, any color you desire) will be given absolutely free. Don't pay out money for a handsome dress while you can get one free for selling our remedies. Address at once, MANUFACTURERS' SUPPLY DEPT. 'T' No. 65, 5th Ave., N. Y. City.



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A wonderful and most ingenious device. It is easy to set, suited to any bait, can be used anywhere, nothing CAN ESCAPE UNTIL RELEASED. Every fish, muskrat, or squirrel which bites at the bait is surely caught. Perfectly safe for children, will not rust. One bait will catch from 20 to 30 fish. Will spring in any position; in short, it is a grand triumph over the unsafe and uncertain common fish-hook. Highly recommended by the Tribune, World, Press, and the Turf, Field and Farm. The Ohio Farmer says: "The Eagle Claw is a very ingenious article. The best device for catching fish and game we ever saw. Safe, sure and convenient." No. 1 is for all ordinary fishing, the ladies' favorite. No. 2 is for general use, both large and small fish and game. We have sold thousands, and they have all given splendid satisfaction.

PREMIUM OFFER. We will send a No. 1, Eagle Claw Hook and our splendid monthly paper six months on trial for only 30 cents; or, send us 50 cents and we will send the No. 2, Eagle Claw-hook and our paper on trial six months. Price, per dozen, by express, No. 1, $2.25; No. 2, $3.50.

Address COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

LADIES, Send to Mrs. H. C. Fretter, Detroit, Mich., for free package ORANGE LILY. Cures all female diseases.

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LADIES Secret to develop your bust six inches Free. ZANZEMETTO CO., Milwaukee, Wis.

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CLAIRVOYANCE free. If sick, Send Now—your name, age, sex, lock of hair, and 2 stamps, to DR. D. HINKLY, X 10, Grand Rapids, Mich.

MOTHERS, I can cure your children of incontinence of urine; trial free. MRS. B. ROWAN, Milwaukee, Wis.

YOUR FUTURE LIFE COMPLETE in LOVE, MARRIAGE and BUSINESS, AS PREDICTED by ASTROLOGY. Send TIME of BIRTH, SEX & 10c. for Written Prediction. PROF. RENFREW, MEDFORD, MASS.

WRINKLES positively removed in one week by Perfection Cream. Sent for $1.00. Circulars free. Mme. Blyth, 318 Washington Bvd., Chicago, Ill.

PIMPLES and Blackheads removed in 4 to 6 days. Perfectly Harmless. Never fails. Send 10 cts. Specific Remedy Co., Dept. K, Cleveland, Ohio.

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ASTHMA Instant relief and positive cure. Sample mailed free to any sufferer. F. G. KINSMAN, M. D., Box 727, Augusta, Maine.

My Mamma Wants to Tell You Something is the title of a book that should be read by all expectant mothers; it tells how she can find relief from all the ills incident to motherhood and secure health for both mother and child, sent free by DR. J. H. DYE MED. INSTITUTE, Buffalo, N. Y.

WE ARE

Searching for Sufferers

YOU MAY NOT FEEL SICK

BUT ALL HANDS POINT TO THE FACT YOU ARE NOT WELL AND WHETHER YOU BE MAN OR WOMAN YOU WILL SOON TAKE ON THIS AGONIZED LOOK.

WE CAN HELP YOU.



YOU DON'T NEED MEDICINE.

But you say you feel generally miserable or suffer with a thousand and one indescribable bad feelings, both mental and physical? Among them low spirits, nervousness, weariness, lifelessness, weakness, dizziness 'feelings of fullness or bloating after eating, or sense of "goneness" or emptiness of stomach in morning, flesh soft and lacking firmness, headache, blurring of eyesight, specks floating before the eyes, nervous irritability, poor memory, chilliness, alternating with hot flushes, lassitude, throbbing, gurgling, or rumbling sensations in bowels, with heat and nipping pains occasionally, palpitation of heart, short breath on exertion, slow circulation of blood. Don't your hands and feet become cold and clammy, do you HAWK AND SPIT and expectorate greenish colored matter? IS your urine scanty or high colored and does it deposit a sediment after standing? You have pain and oppression in chest and back, pain around the loins, aching and weariness of the lower limbs, drowsiness after meals, but nervous wakefulness at night, languor in the morning and a constant feeling of dread as if something awful was about to happen.



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We send one all charges paid. It is Medical and we are obliged to put on Revenue stamps. Therefore as we furnish them entirely free we simply ask you to send us TEN CENTS for mailing, etc. We trust to your honor to tell others about the cure and know many will be sold thereby. We do not ask you to send any more money unless you want others to sell at a profit after you try it. Address,

C. O. COMPANY, Box 654, Augusta, Maine



CONDUCTED BY REGULUS.



AT the LUNATION or New Moon which governs the month of April, and which occurs on the 30th day of March, at about 22 minutes past 3 o'clock in the afternoon, Washington time, the 4th degree of Virgo is rising and the 2nd degree of Gemini is overhead. Both signs are ruled by Mercury, therefore that planet is the ruler of the scheme. Unfortunately that ruler is in his detriment and retrograde besides being afflicted by Mars, which gives indications of the prevalence of some disease of an inflammatory or eruptive character which threatens a higher rate of mortality than ordinary among the people during April, and REGULUS cautions his readers to have unusual care in avoiding liver and lung disorders among adults, and the eruptive diseases among children, especially in the vicinity of the 14th and 20th of the month. Particular stress is laid upon this suggestion to the soldiers and sailors in the service of the nation in our southwestern possessions. Mars gives some trouble with colonial people in the western regions and prominent officers in authority there should be particularly watchful against treachery and some violent acts of disorder. It is apprehended that more than one of our prominent officers or statesmen may suffer injury, if nothing worse, within the lunation.

Saturn on the 5th does not promise favorably for places of amusement and about the middle of the month there is danger of some bad accident injuring children or some fire or explosion in a hotel or place of entertainment by which persons are injured.

Aside from the adverse indications, the figure shows many features of benevolence for the nation. The lunation falls in close harmony with the great benefic Jupiter and Herschel, showing steady general progress of the national affairs, increasing prosperity, and a more happy condition of the people.

Jupiter in the 4th and Venus in Taurus are strong testimonies of plenty of provisions and fruitfulness of the earth though Herschel interjects a caution against some unusual cold or frosts in the latter part of the month. Agriculturalists and landowners are prospered and the country as a whole continues to be favored among nations. The intellectual classes and literary interests suffer some detriment, and it is expected that one or two of our prominent men in literary circles may be called to their last home in April.

Jupiter's advent into Sagittarius relieves some of the burdens of the Spanish people, helping them in their political affairs and prospering them temporarily as a nation.

Saturn in Capricorn is unfavorable for India and Persia, and Mexico on this continent suffers some detriment during his march through that sign.

CELESTIAL CALENDAR FOR APRIL, 1900.

APRIL 1—Sunday. One of the favorable Sabbaths of the month; the influences being particularly conducive to religious fervor and the labors of the clergy will be very happy and effective with the aged and the laboring classes.

2—Monday. Begin this day early and let thine efforts increase as the moments advance. Urge all literary efforts and engagements; deal with printers, publishers, stationers and persons generally in the literary pursuits or those acting in fiduciary capacities. Concern thyself with officers of government, corporate bodies, and with persons engaged in matters of patent or trade mark; let the artist and musician actively urge their several pursuits and let all busy themselves in matters pertaining to the articles that gratify and please mankind, either in the shape of dress or ornament, or in manufacturing such articles. The day contributes energy and enterprise and invites activity in all the walks of life, but especially for the machinist, engineer, mechanic, traveler, surgeon and military man, also all dealers in metals and cattle.

3—Tuesday. The first half of this day favors the light and elegant occupations and gives success to the efforts of the musician, artist, and decorator; the afternoon is adverse, when thou shouldst not be lavish with thy purse nor imprudent in gratifying the appetite or the tastes; make no investment for profit nor have any dealings with judges, lawyers, divines, bankers, brokers, or persons of wealth or station.

4—Wednesday. A fortunate day generally for the literary pursuits and for dealing with persons in public office; let mercantile business of all kinds be urged to the utmost.

5—Thursday. An evil day; form no hasty conclusions in business; beware of signing thy name to any writing of consequence; scrutinize signatures and be duly watchful against treachery; be not rash in thought or act; let judges and counsellors be slow in decisions, deferring judgments for a season where possible; disappointment is likely to attend thy footsteps during the latter half of this day, when thou shouldst not seek any advantage from dealings with builders, contractors, real estate men, or any person engaged in the dirty or laborious avocations.

6—Friday. Seek no promotion in public positions nor offend thine employer on this day.

7—Saturday. Actively improve the moments of this day, pursuing especially transactions and dealings with mathematicians, surveyors, accountants, booksellers and stationers; favorable also for pleasure seeking, house furnishing and for all matters connected with the fine arts; also for beginning undertakings concerned with machinery; deal with cutlers, surgeons, chemists, bakers, barbers, tailors, tanners, carpenters and military men; consult thy dentist and experiment in chemistry.

8—Sunday. This day gives enjoyment from the consideration of strange and unusual subjects in religious literature.

9—Monday. Urge thy petition to public officials and seek promotion in the employment of large corporations and in ecclesiastical matters; have no dealings relating to building or to coal, lead, wool, timber, or mines.

10—Tuesday. A day to be avoided for wooing or wedding; nor is any encouragement offered for the elegant occupations; but use the late afternoon for thy dealings pertaining to houses and lands, mining properties and agricultural matters.

11—Wednesday. Be in no haste to begin the important things in thy day's labor; avoid the money-lender and be very careful in drawing thy purse-strings; do not expect any agreeable experiences in dealings with railway officials, superintendents of public works, or officers of the government.

12—Thursday. The forenoon is the best part of the day for all honorable pursuits but as the noon approaches unfavorable conditions reign for business activity; let all engaged with the pen be specially circumspect in their acts; correspondence is best deferred a few hours and all matters of writing should be carefully scrutinized; look out for fires and contention in the evening and night. Some bad explosions are due about this time.

13—Friday. The first hours of the morning are evil and ought not to be taken for any matter of magnitude when the temper will need to be bridled and rashness of act and speech wisely avoided; as the forenoon advances, however, let every energy be put forth in thy several undertakings; make beginnings in business, buy goods for trade; attend to monetary matters; deal with banks and persons of wealth; consult judges, lawyers, and persons in ecclesiastical circles; the mid-day invites the beginning of important undertakings in the fine arts and all dealings in fancy or decorative goods or articles of dress; urge thy suit with the fair sex and make matrimonial contracts and seek pleasure from the drama or social or musical entertainment.

14—Saturday. Continue thine efforts of yesterday with the utmost vigor during the forenoon; the afternoon is not so promising; let all persons born about the 24th of March, 26th of June, 1st of October, or 27th of December, of past years have care in all the affairs of their life in these passing days, avoiding all rashness of action and all chances of hurts from machinery, fire, or unruly animals; they should also be very temperate in habit and watchful of troubles with digestion or neuralgic annoyances; they should not invite litigation nor allow heat of passion or any excitement to precipitate troubles of any kind. They are likely to be very aggressive and stubborn and make many enemies needlessly.

15—Sunday. This day encourages associations with the aged and gives application and studiousness for mental engagements and for contemplation of the serious questions of life.

16—Monday. Some minor unpleasant features are indicated now in the correspondence and replies are best deferred until the morrow; let all be patient under excitement and avoid disputes and controversies.

17—Tuesday. Arise betimes and push all manner of established business, but do not make beginnings in new or important ventures; prosecute mathematical and scientific studies; deal with printers, booksellers, stationers and all engaged in literary pursuits and the ingenious occupations; do correspondence, travel and generally crowd the literary labors.

18—Wednesday. Arise early and push business to the utmost; buy goods for trade, especially hardware, machinery, cutlery, glassware and manufactured goods; REGULUS points to the forenoon as one of the choice times for beginnings of undertakings concerned with manufacture and chemistry; the afternoon is less favorable after 4 o'clock, when thou shouldst not press thy suit with the fair sex nor expect much satisfaction from the social engagements or from musical or dramatic entertainments.

19—Thursday. Apply to persons in authority for favor in the afternoon and evening and urge all honorable pursuits to the utmost.

20—Friday. An evil day for most undertakings; digestive troubles and their attendant evils are increased at this time; avoid thy landlord and all those engaged in the very laborious undertakings; be watchful in the use of the pen, make no contracts nor do correspondence that can be postponed; take no action in matters of real estate or mining properties and be slow to anger in all associations.

21—Saturday. An indifferent day, giving but little promise of advantage or profit from undertakings now begun; give attention to routine matters rather than new ventures.

22—Sunday. One of the best Sabbath days of the month; especially so for the good and prosperity of church matters and for religious and moral improvement.

23—Monday. The week begins most auspiciously; choose the early hours of this day for business concerned with manufacture of woolens, machinery, hardware, chemicals and drugs; deal in articles of decoration or adornment and musical, artistic and dramatical goods. Unusual skill will be displayed in the forenoon in all musical execution, painting and in production of wearing apparel, jewelry and ornaments.

24—Tuesday. Choose this day for very important transactions concerning real estate; deal with the contractor, plumber, ship-builder, miner and the classes whose avocations are laborious; make applications for favor to persons in authority in the middle hours of the day.

25—Wednesday. Do not speculate in stocks during this day, and in commercial matters purchase only what is absolutely required to bridge over to better times; hold the purse strings securely; have no engagements with railway officials, public officers, dealers in patented articles or holders of patent-rights or copyrights; the evening is not favorable for social entertainments or musical or dramatic engagements.

26—Thursday. Give preference to the forenoon of this day for the important transactions in life, especially such as are concerned with literary and intellectual matters, educational enterprises and the doing of correspondence relating to financial and monetary affairs; but rest all such efforts as the afternoon advances, when disappointment is likely to attend the efforts; the night hours between this and the following day are peculiarly auspicious for mental labors of unusual consequence and are urged for use in forwarding all the literary ventures that the unusual time of day makes possible.

27—Friday. With caution against all undue haste as the noon hours are approached this day is superior and should be vigorously used for crowding the very important ventures; particularly those pertaining to money matters and literary undertakings; the afternoon and evening promise unusual pleasure from all things that serve to gratify mankind; seek musical and dramatical entertainments and woo the fair.

28—Saturday. An indifferent day until the noon hours, after which conditions peculiarly favor the purchase or sale of houses, lands, agricultural products and mining properties; seek favor at the hands of aged persons in the late afternoon and evening; when also travel, engage the mind with ingenious things and study new ways and methods.

29—Sunday. This Sabbath day is but indifferent in promise.

30—Monday. Form no hasty conclusions in business during this day; be not rash in thought or act; keep a check upon the combative impulses and be not too ready to use the pen to obligate thyself for the benefit of others; have no surgical operation performed in the afternoon.

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COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

Men, Women and Things.

CONDUCTED BY JENNIE MELVENE DAVIS.



To be a queen of song with fame and friends in two hemispheres is an enviable distinction. One of the great singers of the world is Madame Nordica, who is one of the leading sopranos in the New York season of grand opera. Madame Nordica is of pure American stock. Her real name was Lillian Norton and she was born at Farmington, Maine. Her father and mother were of the stern, old-fashioned New England type and looked upon music as a doubtful gift with a strong tendency to draw its devotees into forbidden paths. They were willing their daughter should sing in a church choir but any other use of her talent seemed to them wrong. They removed to Boston and there Nordica had her first training in vocalism. Her teacher recognized the beauty of her voice and planned that she should work incessantly until fitted to make an appearance in grand opera and then astonish the musical world by suddenly taking one of the leading positions. Three years of hard, unremitting labor followed. All the details of the art of singing were gone over again and again. Italian was studied until Nordica could sing all the principal operatic parts in that language. The hard work finally had the effect of discouraging the young girl and she half felt that her teacher had planned more than she could fulfill. A short rest gave her the needed physical rest and with returning strength came renewed hope and confidence in her own ability. Nordica came to New York and placed herself under the direction of Madame Maretzek, who had been a famous singer and who had a wide acquaintance in the musical world. Nordica commenced the study of some of the parts in grand opera and worked on for some years. Finally her teacher felt that she was ready for an engagement. Gilmore's band was giving a series of concerts in New York and to him Nordica applied for a hearing. She was asked to step up on the stage in her street dress, the band accompanied her and she sang—sang her way to an immediate engagement. She went west with Gilmore and then was given the opportunity of an European tour. She assisted as the leading soprano at seventy-eight concerts and was the first singer to be heard at the Trocadero in Paris. Gilmore grew enthusiastic over her success and predicted that her own countrymen would crown her with diamonds. This prophecy has been realized for during Nordica's last engagement in New York a magnificent diamond tiara was presented to her by the wealthy subscribers to grand opera. At the end of the tour with Gilmore, Nordica remained in Europe and made her first appearance in grand opera at Brescia. Her success was assured. After singing in various parts of Europe and after receiving a beautiful set of rubies and pearls from the subscribers to one opera season she made her first appearance in grand opera in Paris. It was as Marguerite and the Maine Marguerite won the fancy and applause of critical Paris. In the height of her triumph she married and gave up her career. Upon the death of her husband she returned to the scenes of her triumphs and finally sang in London. A little later she commenced the study of German in order to sing in Wagnerian roles. Madame Nordica says that America has many good voices but that Americans do not understand the years of drudgery necessary to fit one to be able to command one thousand dollars for half an hour's work. It is not the half hour that is represented but the half dozen years' necessary work that enables the artist to command such prices. Madame Nordica lives at the Waldorf-Astoria during the opera season. She is a personal favorite with New Yorkers who are proud that an American woman has won one of the highest positions in the world of song.

Richard Mansfield is acknowledged as a genius and he has all the eccentricities of genius. No American actor is more widely known and from none has the public grown to expect and demand more artistic work. Mansfield frequently scolds his audiences, the press and the public generally and recently rung down the curtain because the noise of a steam pipe rasped his nerves. In spite of this he always plays to crowded houses and a new play with Mansfield as the central figure constitutes one of the most notable events of the dramatic season. Mansfield's mother was a singer of much fame and frequently appeared before the royal families of Europe. The boy was with her during his childhood and once gave an exhibition of the independence that has since marked him. A little crown prince had played a piano selection and Mansfield taking the seat the crown prince had left played the same selection in a manner that far surpassed the prince. He came to this country and for a time was a clerk in Boston. He studied painting and tried to make a living by this means in London but failure was the only result. Then he drifted, if such a term could apply to the boundless energy of the man, into a Pinafore company. In a short time he was a member of one of Mr. Palmer's companies. Suddenly one night the chance came to him to take the leading part at a moment's notice. He was the man of the hour and he succeeded. Since then he has steadily forced his way to the front. He is energy personified. He directs his own rehearsals and observes every point from scenery to expression. He often seizes the paint brush to make an alteration in scenery and coaches the actors over and over again. He advocates the idea that one can never succeed in work they do not like. He says he was a poor clerk and a starving painter but of his success at last there is no doubt. His presentation of Dr. Jekyl and Mr. Hyde is one of his best parts. Beau Brummel, A Parisian Romance, The Devil's Disciple and Cyrano de Bergerac are prominent in his repertoire.



James, Cardinal Gibbons, Archbishop of Baltimore, is the second American to bear the high title and honor of Cardinal. Cardinal Gibbons is the highest officer of the Catholic church in America and is a leader of men as well as a leader in the church. He was born in Baltimore and now at the age of sixty-five his name and fame are honors to the city of his birth. He has served in Baltimore as priest, Bishop, Archbishop and Cardinal. At the age of ten he passed some time in Ireland. In the "eighties" he was invited to Rome to take part in some important meetings of the church. From that time he was recognized as a leader of the Catholic church of America. When Cardinal McClosky died there was little doubt as to the bestowal of the "red hat." On February 10, 1886, a cablegram announced the elevation of Archbishop Gibbons to the Cardinalship. Cardinal Gibbons is a broad spirited public man, one whose opinions have weight both in and out of the pale of his church. He is a close and intelligent student of current events and intensely American in his ideas. The Cardinal is plain and democratic in all his daily life. His home is plain even to asceticism and any one can obtain an audience with the American Cardinal. He is a great walker and his tall form is familiar to all who pass through the streets of Baltimore. He wears a frock coat and carries a stout cane as he walks down Charles Street. Cardinal Gibbons is a diplomat by nature and his tact is perhaps his strongest characteristic. He has the genius for hard, unremitting labor that seems to be the possession of those who attain signal success. He has a marvelous faculty for smoothing out difficulties that fits him for a position that calls for great executive ability. All in all, America without respect to creed has reason to be proud of Cardinal Gibbons.



Mrs. Clarence Burns is a woman who would attract attention in a crowd. Tall and commanding in bearing, her bright handsome face and quiet dignity shows the earnestness of purpose that makes the woman. She looks what she is—a most intellectual woman with broad sympathies and an intelligent grasp of any topic. Mrs. Burns is one of the three women appointed to represent the state of New York as commissioner at the Paris Exposition. She holds very positive opinions concerning wage earners. For nearly a year she performed the arduous duties of secretary to the commission but when the work developed so that it became necessary to give a salary for the time demanded Mrs. Burns refused to do the work saying that it should go to some self supporting person. Mrs. Burns first became identified with club work through the formation of a club for Republican women in the upper west side of New York City. The house to house work of this club in the tenement districts is well known. Mrs. Burns was its president for three years and then resigned the place after being made honorary president for life. She has been attracted to the practical side of organizations and the philanthropic movements in particular have drawn her attention and effort. She is acting vice president of the Little Mothers' Association. This association does a world of good among the poor children who are called "little mothers" because the care of the younger children of the family devolves on them. Mrs. Burns has spent her summers in the heated city planning and taking charge of out of door expeditions for these "little mothers." She has also furthered the work of the out of door playgrounds and many a forlorn little life has been brightened through her earnest desire to bring something better into the lives of the poor. The establishment of a State Industrial School for Girls is one of Mrs. Burns' pet projects and she believes in its ultimate success.

Master Earl Gulick is the youngest church soloist in New York. He is but eleven years of age but earns a salary that it takes four figures to express. He is the soprano soloist at the Church of the Heavenly Rest. He has just been promised $5000 for a four months' concert tour and expects to command a larger sum another year. He is a student at a large private school in the city and a universal favorite. His success does not seem to have spoiled him and he is simply a natural, lovable boy, with all a boy's love of fun. His voice cannot be distinguished from that of a prima donna and competent critics declare that he is the finest boy soprano in America.



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VOL XII NO. 6 MN 138

COMFORT

THE KEY TO A MILLION AND A QUARTER HOMES

NEW YORK AUGUSTA, MAINE. BOSTON

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The following conditions govern the awarding of cash prizes for Nutshell Stories, and the manuscripts of such writers only as have complied with all these requirements will receive consideration.

All the necessary particulars being here clearly set forth, it will be useless for anyone to seek further information or personal favors by addressing the editor, as such letters cannot be answered.

1. *Only persons who are regular paid up yearly subscribers to "Comfort" and who send with every manuscript at least two yearly subscribers (together with 50 cents to pay for each subscriber so sent) may compete for the prizes.*

2. *All contributions must have the number of words they contain plainly noted thereon in addition to the writer's full name and address with nom de plume if desired; must be written on one side of the paper only, enclosed in the same envelope as the letter and remittance for new subscriptions, and addressed to* EDITOR NUTSHELL STORY CLUB *care of* COMFORT, AUGUSTA, MAINE.

3. *All stories must be* strictly original *with the contributors, and must not have appeared in print before. Competitors may write upon any subject, whether based upon fact, fancy or fiction—of adventure, love, war, peace; of city or country life, or of experiences on land or sea—but no story must contain more than* 2,000 *or less than* 1,000 *words.*

4. NO MANUSCRIPT WILL BE RETURNED UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES AND COMPETITORS SHOULD THEREFORE RETAIN A COPY OF WHAT THEY SEND.

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The Publishers of "Comfort" reserve the right to purchase at their established rates any stories submitted under the foregoing offer, which failed to secure a prize.

☞ *Writers who hear nothing of their manuscript may at the end of* 90 *days after submitting them to "Comfort" feel at liberty to offer their stories for sale elsewhere.*

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Frederick E. Burnham, First Prize.
Florence L. Brackett, Second Prize.
Harriet W. Seaver, Third Prize.
Sarah M. Maverick, Fourth Prize.
Kathryn B. Harris, Fifth Prize.

FORGING THE FETTERS.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY F. E. BURNHAM.

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A DISPATCH was received by the chief of the detective bureau in Chicago, stating that the Dunham brothers, two of the shrewdest and most desperate bank burglars in the country, had left New York on the midnight express, with through tickets for the Metropolis of the West.

"Put one of your best men on their track," read the message, "and have him 'shadow' them night and day; they have not left the city for nothing."

Dudley Crane, the coolest and one of the cleverest men on the force, was sent to meet the train which the Dunham brothers had boarded in New York, with instructions to shadow them.

True to the New York Chief's dispatch, the two notorious criminals were on the express when it rolled into the station at Chicago, and as they stepped from one of the coaches the eagle eye of Dudley Crane singled them out and he followed less than ten paces in the rear.

At one of the first-class hotels the two men registered as coming from Boston, under the assumed names of Paige and Jones. And when the detective was convinced that they were located for the night, he reported at headquarters and received additional instructions.

When the Dunham brothers left the hotel the following morning they carried two small packages with them, though their grips were left behind. Crane was standing on the opposite side of the street and followed at a respectful distance. The direction taken by the two men led to the lake and there, after passing up and down where the docks were located, they paused at length near the mouth of a new sewer which had lately been completed. Two hours later they returned to their hotel, apparently hesitating to carry out their proposed move on that morning.

What that move was puzzled Crane, for try as he would he could not imagaine what there was about the new sewer which could interest two bank burglars. Detective Crane was decidedly interested.

That afternoon the detective succeeded in securing a room joining that occupied by the men he was shadowing, and that night it was his good fortune to overhear a conversation which shed much light on the matter. The partition was thin and from sentences uttered in unguarded moments, he learned that they proposed to crack one of the National Banks, securing entrance and opportunity to work by means of the new sewer, which was not to be made use of by the city until the fore part of the year. Their plan was to follow the windings of the sewer, according to a plan which they had managed to secure, and arriving at the street and number where the bank was located, dig their way through the walls of the sewer, the cellar walls and finally the brick covering the bank-vault; then, on the night decided upon, crack the safe, secure their booty and make their escape by the way they had come. The plan was worthy of the men who had conceived it, apparently practical in its every detail. The only thing that stood between the men and success was a detective—Dudley Crane.

"All that we need now is a good man whom we can trust," said one of the brothers, "a man who can keep a secret and do the heavy work. The question is—can we find such a man, Frank?"

Dudley Crane smiled as he listened and said to himself that he knew where just such a man could be found. "A man who can keep a secret and do the heavy work," he said, chuckling softly, "I'm the man."

The next morning one of the Dunham brothers took notice of a seedy-looking individual who was lounging about the gentleman's room of the hotel. After studying the man for an hour or more, he went to his room, returning shortly with his brother.

"A party that would do most anything for money," whispered one "and if he can hold his tongue, the man we are looking for."

Presently the seedy-appearing individual stepped out into the street, standing for a moment as though undecided which way to turn. One of the brothers followed him.

"Dead broke?" queried the cracksman, addressing the man he had followed.

"Come pretty close to it," replied the lounger, "why do you ask, boss?"

"What do you do for a living?" demanded the cracksman, abruptly.

"Crooked work interests me about as much as anything," replied the shiftless individual, grinning.

"Whew!" said the other, inwardly congratulating himself. "See here," said he, leading the supposed crook to one side, "if you can hold your tongue and do the right thing by me, I'll put you on the road to fortune."

"I am the man as can keep a secret and keep it well," replied the stranger, "I knows the importance of doing so."

"Meet me at eight to-night where the new sewer comes out at the lake, my man, and we will talk business," said the cracksman; "until then, mum's the word."

Dudley Crane stood for a few seconds looking after the criminal whom he had succeeded in deceiving. "'If you want a thing done well, do it yourself,'" he murmured.

It was important that the two Dunham boys be caught in the act of looting the bank; twice had the strong hand of the law attempted to place the men behind the bars, but through lack of convincing evidence had they escaped. This time it was determined at headquarters that they should not escape.

At precisely eight o'clock the individual whom the cracksman had met in the morning waited at the mouth of the new sewer, and shortly after two men, who proved to be no other than the Dunham brothers, joined him. The night was favorable for the carrying out of the initial steps of the undertaking, there being no moon and the heavens overcast.

Two hundred feet within the sewer the trio paused and a consultation followed. A diagram of the sewer and a map of the city were produced and studied jointly for an hour or so. Arms of the sewer branched from the main channel at the junction of the streets with the main thoroughfare. The number of streets passed before coming to the avenue where the spotted bank was located were counted, and then the march through the sewer was taken up, each branch of the sewer being carefully counted as they progressed. At that point where the avenue leading to the bank was located, another pause was made and the maps consulted again. This time the number of rods between that point and the bank was ascertained from a note-book carried by one of the brothers, and accurate measurements were taken within the avenue branch of the sewer. Presently the three men paused, and the one who carried the measuring stick made a heavy cross on the brickwork, definitely marking the spot.

Meanwhile, it was presumed that the stranger who was to assist the cracksmen, knew nothing of the nature of the work they were about to undertake. Finally, when the place was settled upon, the whole plan was laid before him.

"Your part in this undertaking," said one of the men, "will be to open the way to the vault overhead. One thousand dollars is yours the night that we get away with the money contained in the safe."

Nothing further was done that night, and silently the three men wended their way back toward the lake, arriving in due time and separating for the night.

Dudley Crane knew that he was playing with desperate men and that a slip on his part meant death, but he also knew that nothing, save an accident, would cause him to trip, and that with patience he would be rewarded in due time by seeing two of the greatest bank burglars in the country behind the bars and a long term of years staring them in the face. Dudley Crane was ready to take his chances.

The ensuing evening, shortly before eight o'clock, according to agreement, Crane met the two brothers within the sewer and together they repaired to the point marked the previous evening. They had brought chisels and muffled hammers with them and work on the brick wall of the sewer was begun at once.

One by one the bricks were removed until an opening was made large enough for an ordinary man to crawl through. Having done this, some six feet of earth were encountered, half of which Crane succeeded in removing that night. At two o'clock work for that night was given up, and an hour later the two brothers were in their room at the hotel, and the detective was reporting his work at headquarters.

The three nights following work was carried on with persistency and vigor, and finally, the brick outer-wall of the bank-vault was encountered, precisely as the accurate plans of the two crooks had intimated. The following night was decided upon for cracking the safe.

The next morning the officials of the marked bank were apprised of the proposed attempt to crack the safe, and keys leading to the inner room where the vault was located were secured.

That evening shortly before nine o'clock four of the bravest and coolest detectives of the bank squad secreted themselves in the shadow of the great vault, a spot which the rays of the single gas-jet failed to reveal. It was the plan of these men to overpower the two cracksmen before they injured the valuable safe.

At the same time Detective Crane was waiting at the mouth of the sewer for the two brothers. Presently he heard the faint paddle of oars, and shortly a boat glided in toward the sewer and the Dunham boys stepped out, one of them tying the boat close up to the mouth of the sewer.

If it were stated that Dudley Crane was undisturbed and unshaken by the thought that he was about to deliver the two men into the hands of the four detectives, the truth would not be spoken. Dudley Crane knew that the two men were armed and would not hesitate to kill the man who stood between them and liberty. He knew that if they discovered that they had been duped by the man they trusted, that he was no other than a detective himself, they would put a bullet in him without an instant's warning. All this passed through Crane's mind as he followed the two men. He foresaw that the first thought that would enter the minds of the burglars would be that he had betrayed them, and that they would wreak vengeance on him, unless, perchance he could farther deceive them. To this end, he had slipped the ball cartridges from the revolver which had been furnished him by the crooks, replacing them with blank ones. The reason for this will be apparent presently.

It now was near midnight. Waiting until the watchman had tried the door to the bank, the elder of the two brothers gave the signal for his brother and Crane to follow him into the bank, there to begin work on the vault.

Scarcely had Crane drawn himself through the opening by the side of the vault, which opening had been cunningly concealed since it was made the preceding night, when four determined men stepped from behind the vault, and four gleaming revolvers pointed menacingly at the heads of the amazed and disconcerted cracksmen.

Instantly three revolvers gleamed in the hands of the surprised men.

With an oath one of the brothers turned fiercely upon Crane. He would have fired had not he seen something that caused him to pause.

Crane, leveling his revolver full at the head of an advancing officer fired two shots in rapid succession.

Whatever his thoughts an instant before, that act on the part of Crane completely deceived him; the next instant he turned on the advancing officers. Two shots were fired, but they went wide of the mark, and in far less time than it takes to tell it, the two burglars were lying helpless on their backs and the twisters were being fastened to their wrists. Not until that moment did it dawn upon them that the man who had done the heavy work, was forging the fetters which were to place them prisoners in the merciless clutch of the law. When they saw him replacing his revolver in his hip-pocket and no restraining hand was laid upon him, they saw it all in the twinkling of an eye. The look of hate which they cast upon him, containing the thoughts which their tongues were powerless to utter, Dudley Crane never forgot. Could an artist have transferred it to canvas it would have made the painter famous.

A month later the Dunham brothers were tried and convicted and sentenced to a term of fifteen years at hard labor.

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THE MIRROR OF DESTINY.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY FLORENCE L. BRACKETT.

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I HAD been pacing the deck for nearly an hour, brooding over the treachery of one in whom I had had implicit trust, when suddenly I felt that some one was watching me intently. I looked about and saw only a woman seated alone at the extreme end of the boat. She was so draped in a mantilla that her face was invisible, but I caught a glimpse of a pair of eyes gleaming through the black folds of the lace. As I glanced in her direction she arose. Just then the ship gave a lurch, and she would have been thrown violently to the deck had I not sprung forward and caught her. She quickly recovered herself and with a soft "Gracias, Senor," hastened away.

After watching her until she had disappeared, I resumed my restless walk, but in some way things looked different. The sense of oppression weighing upon me had totally disappeared, and instead I felt buoyant and light hearted.

"What is the cause of this sudden change?" I asked myself. Hitherto, I had desired no companionship other than my own unhappy thoughts, but now I wanted to talk to someone, and seeing the captain on the bridge I joined him.

During our conversation I asked him if he knew who the lady was whom I had assisted.

"No," he replied, "she is booked for Panama. Why, do you know her?"

I told him my experience with her, and he said:

"Don't let her hoodoo you; lots of those women have that power in this country."

This information made me determine to see the mysterious woman again. Day after day slipped by until I despaired of seeing her. At last, one evening, I saw a slight figure glide by me and seat herself a short distance from where I stood.

I strolled toward her, and said:

"Good evening, senorita."

She acknowledged my salutation with a gracious bow.

"What a wonderful night it is!" I continued, opening the conversation.

"Yes," she replied softly. Then glancing up at me, she murmured: "I am afraid you have thought me very rude, senor, not to have thanked you for your assistance, the other day; believe me, I was very grateful."

"Oh," I replied, "it was nothing, please forget it."

"But," said she, "I am going to repay you for your kindness by telling you not to worry about the absconding of your partner. When we arrive at Panama the money that he stole will be returned to you."

"Why!" I exclaimed in astonishment. "How did you hear of what I thought was known

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only to myself and that scoundrel? Tell me, I beg of you."

"It has come to my knowledge," replied she, "not by human agency. But it is correct, nevertheless."

"This is wonderful!" I exclaimed. "Tell me more, I pray you."

"Your partner," continued she, "intended to sail for China, but Providence in the shape of malaria detained him. He is now seriously ill."

"Is he going to die?"

"Yes," replied she, "it is so ordained."

"But tell me," I said, "from whence do you get this wonderful knowledge of your fellow men?"

"That is a long story, which I will tell you later."

Then she arose, and with a "Buenas noches" glided away.

"Was there ever anything more mysterious?" I queried to myself.

That evening the Unknown appeared at dinner for the first time, and her loveliness fairly took my breath away. She was slight in figure, with a complexion of a rich olive hue. Her hair, intensely black, her arched eyebrows and long, drooping lashes all had an indescribable charm. Her eyes—can any one describe them! Midnight were not so dark. She was dressed in black of filmy texture, and a black lace mantua was thrown around her shoulders. Her movements were grace itself; in fact, there was something uncanny about her, and as she entered the saloon looking so beautiful, a thrill of apprehension seemed to pervade me.

Why should this strange woman affect me so? As we left the table I hastened to her side and said:

"Senorita, won't you come on deck? It is a charming evening."

She consented, and for a while we promenaded up and down the deck in silence.

Suddenly she said:

"Perhaps, senor, you would like to hear my story?"

"It would give me great pleasure to hear it," I replied. I then took two seats, and placed them in a secluded spot where we would be free from interruption. She began as follows:

"I was born in the city of Lima. My father was a civil engineer. When I was fifteen he was offered an opportunity to go into the interior. My mother insisted upon accompanying him, and she took me with her. After travelling for several months, through a wild and uninhabited country, we reached our destination without mishap. The village selected for us to live in while father was exploring consisted of a few miserable huts, but the inhabitants received us kindly and did all they could to make us comfortable. We had lived there over a year when my mother died of a fever. My father, who was about to go further into the interior, left me in the care of the medicine woman of the tribe.

"She called me her 'Little Princess,' and I regarded her as a second mother. She taught me all her science, how to heal the sick and the incantations for so doing, until I was a worthy disciple, and her followers worshipped me.

"One evening my foster mother called me to her side and said:

"'My Princess, I am going to leave you very soon, and you must give heed to what I am about to tell you. You will be the medicine woman when I am gone, the tribe will look to you for counsel and help, and you must not fail them. The power I now possess will descend to you and enable you to be to them what I was.'

"She then took from her bosom a round wooden case, and opening it revealed to me an inner casket of gold with a glass top. This casket appeared to be filled with a black liquid resembling ink, but as I looked, the surface of it changed, and mirrored in it I suddenly saw a hut resembling ours, and a woman lying on a bench covered with a cloth. As I gazed longer, the covering was slowly raised, and to my horror I saw that the woman was dead, and that her features were those of my protector. I screamed with fright.

"'Oh, it's not you I see,' I cried.

"'Yes, dear,' she answered, 'but hear me through. Everything you wish to know—past, present and future is mirrored in this liquid, but for yourself the future is visible only on your birthday; at other times, nothing but the present is to be seen. Guard the mirror with great care, and never let it out of your possession, for it is your talisman. Do not let the tribe suspect from whence you get your power, but surround it with mystery. When your father returns to you the people will be loath to let you go, and will prevent it if they can. Then consult the oracle; by following its directions you will escape from their vigilance.'

"The next day my foster mother died, and I was installed as the medicine woman of the tribe. For over a year I acted successfully as their counsellor. Then my father returned. When, however, the tribe heard that I must leave them to go with him they were wild with anger, and said it could never be—I was their medicine woman, and must remain with them. From that moment our every action was watched, and a guard placed about my hut.

"I consulted my magic mirror. In it I saw the tribe surrounding their Sun God several leagues away from the village; I also saw my hut with the guards around it lying on the ground asleep, while in the distance I seemed to discern my father and myself riding swiftly away. I told him of the tribe's annual worship of the Sun God, and that this would be our time to leave. I prepared for the guards a decoction of herbs pleasant to the taste and having the power of putting them to sleep for many hours, and made preparations to escape.

"At last the eventful day arrived, and everything happened as I had foreseen; before our captors returned home we were beyond pursuit.

"Five years after our escape my father's health began to fail. Upon consulting my oracle I found that he was doomed soon to die. Now being my birthday, it also seemed to be the moment to look into the future."

"Ah," I cried breathlessly, "did the mirror tell you your fate?"

"Yes," she replied, "and the vision gave me courage, for I saw I was to be well taken care of after my father's death, and would not be long alone. Six months later father died, and now I am waiting for the fulfillment of the mirrored prophecy."

"Well, has it come true?" I exclaimed.

"It is slowly being verified," she said, solemnly.

"And that is where you found out about me?"

"Yes, you were so kind, and—and——" said she, stammering, and when I looked up quickly I saw her face was suffused with blushes.

My heart throbbed violently. Could I resist the siren spell she was casting about me? No! a thousand times no,—nor did I wish to. I took her hands hurriedly in mine, and gazing in her eyes I said:

"Did you see in that witch glass that I loved you, and could not live without you, and did it tell you that you were to be my wife? If it did not tell you so, it is a false oracle and does not mirror the truth. Tell me!" I exclaimed, "did you?"

For a moment there was a deep silence. Then she said in a faltering voice:

"It spoke the truth."

In an instant I was pressing her to my heart in a passionate embrace. Later she told me that I had been plainly mirrored in the magic fluid, and that when I appeared on the deck she recognized me at once. Perceiving that I was in trouble, she immediately looked to see what it was. Her diffidence arose from her fear lest I suspect her secret.

"And now, my darling," I said, "let me see this wonderful mirror."

She hastened below for it and a few moments later reappeared bringing the weird thing in her hand. She was about to give it to me when a great wave struck the side of the steamer. I lost my balance and in trying to save myself, struck her hand holding the case so that the magic mirror flew out, and to my great disappointment and disgust disappeared over the side of the vessel.

Beulah burst into tears. I tried to comfort her by saying:

"It is better so, my darling. What do we want to know of the future,—haven't we the present and each other? Let the uncanny thing go."

As had been foretold, on our arrival at Panama, we found my absconding partner dying at the hospital. He had already made arrangements to have the money restored. I went to see him but he was unconscious. A few days later, when he died, I saw that he was properly buried. Beulah and I were married at once; we are very happy and have never yet regretted the loss of the Mirror of Destiny.

JOHN 3.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY HARRIET W. SEAVER.

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I WAS once traveling with my wife on one of those famous "personally conducted" trips across the continent. The party in our car consisted of only four, as it was then late for the Californian season, and because of the number we were thrown more than ordinarily together.

Besides myself and wife was a middle-aged widow, Mrs. Brown, who was of that extremely dark type, with sallow skin and shiny black hair and a superb carriage, except for the defect of a slight lameness as she walked. And a Capt. Hart, an old detective, who, worn out with care and the nerve strain of such a life, was seeking once more the part of the country he called home and taking with him his affianced wife, Mrs. Brown.

A more interesting couple we could not have been thrown in with once in a thousand times. Mrs. Brown had traveled most all over the world, and the Captain was daily narrating little incidents that had happened during his professional career.

The one I am about to repeat was his first unsuccessful case, and as we had drawn from him the fact that it was during this case he had met Mrs. Brown, we prevailed upon him to give us the story.

"About twenty years ago I was called from San Francisco to a little town in Lower California to watch a girls' college and discover who in the building was daily relieving the students of their small money and little trinkets. I was introduced to the teachers and students by the president—who had called me—as the new professor of astronomy, for I felt I could do more investigating in that capacity than as one of the servants. Besides, the menials were all Chinamen and I did not relish the idea of continued disguise and quarters with that—well, not over-clean—class.

"So I was given a room on the second floor at the head of the west wing, where my outlook was the entire campus. And here I was left undisturbed, having announced that I would postpone my classes until I had completed 'a set of charts' I was preparing, in case any one suspected my identity.

"For a few days I stumbled along on veiled clues without finding anything satisfactory. The thefts took place just as they had before I arrived, which was evidence enough to me that no one, except the president, suspected my errand.

"One thing of great importance to *me* did happen in those first few days. I met and fell deeply in love." Here he stopped and glanced at Mrs. Brown tenderly, while she blushed in a way peculiar to her, by growing intensely pale, "and before I left the college I had her consent to become my wife, in spite of the fact I was half a score of years her senior. But unfortunately for me, young girls have parents desirous of better connections than a mere detective and—I have been obliged to wait all these years—but that is another story," and the Captain smiled and sighed and continued:

"As I say, things went on just the same. I was in love but had the same wary eye for business and in less than a week I had formed my conclusions which made me wander frequently through Servants' Hall.

"I think now the guilty one could have been caught, had I understood Chinese. I struggled to get into some of their conversations (if such they may be called) but the cook was the only one who took any notice of me. The others would go their ways sputtering their jargon and as long as I was there I couldn't see enough difference in their faces to tell one from another. There was John 1—for each had a number in place of a name. He was the lean cook. John 2, a garrulous chap, was outside chore boy. John 3, who might have been dumb from all the talking I ever heard him do, had a peg leg that was his distinguishing feature. John 4, 5 and 6, were undersized boys who acted as waiters, and from 6 up to 14 there were chamber-boys, a bell-boy and laundry men. I studied each chance I got, to learn if any one had more money on hand than the others, but they all knew nothing except that they all played 'Fan Tan', and more than that I could not learn.

FROM PUDDING LANE TO PIE CORNER.

The Fearful Fire Which Consumed the English Metropolis Attributed to Gluttony.

The great fire of London began at Pudding Lane and ended at Pie Corner. The divines of the day seized upon the coincidence and proclaimed the fire a punishment for gluttony. The modern theologian would hardly stand by such a proposition. He believes that

"Gherizem and Ebal
Are in each human soul"

and that gluttony would be punished in the individual glutton by the logical consequences which follow the offense.

It is a fact not to be denied that over-eating



kindles the fire of disease in many a human body, and this fire of disease often finds its beginning at "pudding lane" in the sweet and soggy stuff which pleases the palate but offends the stomach of the eater.

Physiological living would demand that all food be selected primarily with respect to its nutritive value, the pleasures of the palate to be a secondary consideration. But that order is popularly reversed. First please the palate and let the nourishment take care of itself is the practical expression of the popular idea of eating and drinking. And so the body is fed (?) with all sorts of innutritious material, spiced or salted, acid or sweet. The palate is pleased and enjoys the flavors of the food, regardless of the discomfort of the overloaded stomach, and the result is

A NATION OF DYSPEPTICS.

Is that statement too sweeping? The increasing prevalence of diseases of the digestive and nutritive systems fully justifies the claim. "Weak" stomach is the general name given to a variety of these diseases. To many the whole range of them is summed up in the one word, "dyspepsia." To one who has had experience with this disease there is no other word so expressive of purgatorial torments as that one word, "dyspepsia." Mind and body suffer alike from its influence. To physical misery it adds the mental misery which is consequent on "anger, malice and all uncharitableness."

"I had been troubled with catarrh of the stomach and heart trouble," writes Mr. W. D. Merchant, of Tylersburg, Clarion Co., Penna. "Had doctored for some time without relief, then I began to take Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery. I took seven bottles. Before I began to take it I weighed 119 pounds, and now I weigh 176. I am working steadily and feel like a well man. I send you many thanks."

If people realized the far reaching effects of diseases of the stomach and the allied organs of digestion and nutrition, they would make a business of getting well.

THE HUMAN STOMACH

is to the organized structure of the body what the commissary department is to an organized army, what the tender is to the railroad engine. If soldiers are not fed they can't fight. Without the supply of fuel in the tender the engine will stop dead on the track. Every organ of the body depends on the stomach for its vitality, and that is why, when the stomach is diseased, and the digestive and nutritive functions imperfectly performed, any or all the great organs—brain, lungs, heart, kidneys, or liver, may become involved in disease. Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery cures diseases of the stomach and organs of digestion and nutrition, and with the cure of these diseases other ailments which originated in a diseased condition of the stomach are cured through the stomach.

"I have taken one bottle of Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery for indigestion and liver complaint," writes Mr. C. M. Wilson, of Yadkin College, Davidson Co., N. C. "Have had no bad spells since I commenced taking your medicine—in fact, have not felt like the same man. Before I took the 'Golden Medical Discovery' I could not eat anything without awful distress, but now I can eat anything I wish without having unpleasant feelings."

"I was a total wreck—could not sleep nor eat," writes Mr. J. O. Beers, of Berryman, Crawford Co., Mo. "For two years I tried medicine from doctors, but received very little benefit. I lost flesh and strength, was not able to do a good day's work. I commenced taking Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery, and when I had taken one bottle I could sleep and my appetite was wonderfully improved. I have taken five bottles and am still improving."

One of the great causes of the progress of diseases of the stomach and organs of digestion and nutrition is the treatment of symptoms of disease instead of the radical treatment of the disease itself. People are induced to use some paltry palliative which temporarily relieves distress after eating, until with many people a tablet or a few drops of medicine become a necessary adjunct of each meal. Palliatives relieve the stomach for a time, but the condition remains uncured, and will certainly grow worse.

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Persons suffering from diseases of long standing are invited to consult Dr. Pierce, by letter, free of charge. All correspondence absolutely private and confidential. Address Dr. R. V. Pierce, Buffalo, N. Y.

If you ask your dealer for "Golden Medical Discovery" and he offers a substitute, remember that the substitute is not the medicine which has cured so many others. If you want to be cured insist on having the "Discovery," and accept nothing else.

WEDDING PRESENTS

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"Now up to the time of my advent nothing of great value had been missed; but one noon, on returning from recitation, one of the young ladies made hue and cry over a large solitaire ring which had disappeared while she was out.

"Each girl who had been near her room was questioned in my presence, while her room was searched. The only person remaining unsearched was the servant who had put her room in order; and as each Chinaman in turn denied being near there, they were all suspected and all watched accordingly.

"I felt that I was soon coming upon some clue. That evening the president came to me and said that the student who had the opposite room and who was in bed with a hard headache during the forenoon, had heard the one who was making the bed, and it had seemed to her as though each step he took would make her head burst, it was such an irritating thumping noise.

"This convinced me it was John 3, the wooden legged man, and I hurried into the quarters and looked for him, but to my surprise he didn't appear with the rest of the servants. Then I was convinced. I asked questions but could get no satisfactory replies, however I did grasp the fact that two or three of the boys lived outside and came in each day to work. So I waited until the next morning and after I saw number 3 safely inside, I stationed men at the four doors leading from the building to the campus and allowed him the freedom of the building as usual; feeling that I was sure of him, I hastened to dress, as I had an appointment to meet my sweetheart in the drawing room at eleven. Presently I heard the thump, thump of that peg leg outside my door, then it passed on down the corridor; twice it stopped, then it continued on down the west wing until it died away and I wrestled with a collar stud that had dropped down my back and wondered just how I should break the news to my sweetheart that I was no astronomy professor after all, only a penniless detective.

"I heard the girls returning from their recitations talking and laughing, but it wasn't long before they came rushing back to my room—mine being the nearest in that section—exclaiming that two of their rooms had been turned upside down and all their money taken from places where it had been concealed. I assured them it would all be returned that night and hurried down to the drawing room, but my sweetheart was late and excited over the thefts, and in the brief time we had together I explained—but to continue my story. When night came no number 3 went out of the building, and more perplexing still on investigation no number 3 was found in the building." But here I interrupted.

"Could no one be found who saw him after you heard him go down the west corridor?"

"And that was the strangest part of it," continued the captain. "Mrs. Brown was in her room at the end of the wing the whole forenoon and did not even see or hear him, did you dear?——"

In our intense interest we had not noticed that Mrs. Brown had swooned, but as we looked around for her to verify this statement, we saw her in a dead faint in the chair in which she sat.

As I assisted the captain to lift her to the couch I noticed the cause of Mrs. Brown's lameness was a wooden foot. And I wondered if the captain had not been in love, how long it would have taken him to solve the mystery of the disappearance of John 3.

ONE OF THE UNEXPLAINABLES.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY SARAH M. MAVERICK.

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IS a queer story, and I am not telling it because I think you will believe it. Don't expect you to, for it seems hardly possible even to myself. It was one lovely day, so perfectly delightful it seemed a shame to stay in the house, and my journalistic instinct prompted me to go on a voyage of discovery after the riff-raff of news and items that is always floating about, and which is sure to come in handy some time or other.

While I was thinking which way to go, the train belonging to the O. N. branch of the road came along, and I boarded it, idly wondering as I did so whether I should meet my fate at the end of the line, or, what would suit me a great deal better just then, whether some extra good paying item would develop itself, thereby enabling me to meet my landlady next Saturday night with a smiling countenance. I was the only occupant of the car except the brakeman, but no one ever thinks of considering the train hands anybody unless, indeed, they need help, when they are very apt to discover that it is just as well to be a little bit civil to them.

I was looking around for anything that might be made of use, when to my astonishment I saw a big black and white cat right in the aisle washing herself.

"Why, kitty," I exclaimed, "where on earth did you come from?"

As I spoke the brakeman turned toward me with so white a face I thought he was fainting.

"Don't," he said, as I moved toward her, "it's the phantom cat. She might kill you."

"Nonsense," I answered, "she's flesh and blood fast enough. She's a beauty, and I want her," but somehow when I stooped to lift her my hands were empty, though there she still sat just ahead of me. She kept right on washing her face, and though she never took one step she was nearing the door. "There," I exclaimed as I cornered her, "I've got you now sure," but as I clasped my hands around her she vanished through the closed door.

"I told you so," was his remark as I turned to my companion for an explanation. "She's a spook, and we dread to see her I can tell you, for she is sure to be the harbinger of some awful accident. She appears three times, and then we look out for ourselves, for the warning never fails."

"But why does she haunt this particular train?" I asked, much impressed by his evident anxiety.

"Well, it seems that some years ago there was a conductor on this line who was a great lover of pets, cats especially. One day a poor little black and white kitten lay on the depot platform with a broken leg. That was enough for him. He took it aboard the train, and cared for it so thoroughly that it grew into a great handsome animal that was the pet of all the train hands. Every morning it went on duty with him, riding on the cars or the engine, whichever it pleased. But one day, no one could tell how it happened, the conductor stood on the depot steps with his cat in his arms, when all of a sudden just as the train started, he fell forward throwing her under the wheels which passed over him as he tried to save her. Poor kitty was picked up dead, and her friend lived but a few moments. About three months later she appeared same as now, and within a month there was a terrible accident, and so it has been ever since. Whenever there is trouble coming she gives us warning. It is about five years since she last appeared, but mark my words, it won't be five weeks before you will hear of something disastrous on this road."

I didn't know how to answer him, so I said nothing. The poor fellow's distress was too real for commonplace remarks, and besides, my own experience was strong proof that something had happened out of the ordinary. My day was spoiled, and I took the next train home. But such impressions wear away under the friction of daily duties, and when four weeks later I took that same train, I remembered the incident only as a passing thought. We had just passed the Junction, and I was looking out of the window when a touch on my shoulder made me turn to see my friend, the brakeman, pointing toward the end of the car. There as before sat the black and white kitty. Suddenly she stood up, shook herself, and walking to the end of the car, looked all around and slowly vanished.

"Heaven help us," he groaned, "this is the third time. I must tell the boys."

A thrill of fear passed through me, and I wondered if it was my fate to be present when the impending trouble came. We were near the end of the route then and reached it in safety. It was necessary that I should reach home that night, and against my better judgment I took my seat in the train for my return. Somehow I was impressed to do so. As we started I glanced among the passengers to see if, in case of accident, anyone would need special assistance. It didn't take me long to decide, for nearly at the end of the car was a delicate little woman with a wee bit of a baby in her lap. Under pretense of being able to hear better, I coaxed her to a seat in the middle, and it was not long before my admiration of her little one and sympathy with herself had won her confidence and she told me a pathetic story of early widowhood and a struggle to live that would have touched a harder heart than mine. "Sometimes," she added, "I have a premonition that I shall not live very long, and what will become of baby if I should be taken?"

The dark eyes so full of trouble looked straight into mine, and I was impelled to say, "The kind Father who sent her to you will never forget her, and you can safely trust Him to watch over His own."

"Yes," she answered, I know all that, but I want the assurance that some human agency will be near in her time of need," and, why I said it I cannot tell, but I replied, "here is my card. Should you realize your fear, send me word, and I will come to you, and take the child if anything happens to render it necessary."

"Heaven bless you," she exclaimed fervently. "I have never met you before, but I know of you, and I am perfectly sure that she will be safe in your care. I think Providence must have sent you to me."

For the last two or three minutes I had been conscious of an increased stir about the train, and when the conductor rushed through the car, and pulled the cord controlling the air brakes, I knew the dreaded time had come. He was too late, for at that moment a terrible crash threw us, and everything else into a heap. One fearful cry sounded above the uproar, and for a brief moment all was still. As soon as we found we were not killed we scrambled to our feet. All but the little mother; she had fallen face downward, and the gash in her temple showed how death had come to her. Baby was under a seat, unhurt, and evidently wondering what it all meant. A gentleman who had been sitting behind us laid her gently in my arms saying as he did so, "the poor mother claims your promise."

"A promise I shall keep to the letter," I replied as I folded the soft form close to my heart, and looked into the sweet, smiling face unshadowed by its dreadful loss.

The accident was due to a collision with a wildcat train which was rushing along in hot haste trying to avoid the very evil it perpetrated. Had it not been for the warning the men had received, thus keeping them constantly on the watch, the result would have been even more disastrous than it was. As for myself, I believe my trip on that day was a specially intended Providence, and although I am not anxious to repeat the experience, I do not regret it. Baby is still a wee bit lassie, but she is the one gleam of sunshine in my hard work-a-day life, and I hope she will be spared to me for many a year, although to this day I have no idea who she is or where she rightly belongs. Neither do I care. She is mine now.

The phantom cat has not been seen since the accident, but it is safe to say that should danger again threaten "the boys", their feline friend will be on hand to give a timely warning.

DR. BOGGS' EXPERIMENT.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY KATHRYN R. HARRIS.

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AT forty-five Dr. Boggs was still pouring his own coffee in bachelor apartments in Boonville. The reason for this lay not so much in his ineligibility as in his unwillingness to take what he could get. Old maids he would not consider, widows he abhorred, and the young girls, without exception, fooled him. This being the case, he did not get the sympathy he deserved.

Had not the widow Clark laid aside her mourning six months after her husband's death for the sole purpose, as every one knew, of relieving the doctor's forlorn condition? Then there were the Misses Simms, who lived next door, either one of whom would have been willing to sacrifice her freedom for the sake of a man in the house, and not, as some vulgarly supposed, to escape the stigma of old-maidenhood. It is true they had Ned, the only child of their dead brother, but he was only sixteen and not to be depended upon. The younger Miss Simms had gone so far on one occasion as to offer to straighten up the doctor's medicine chest, and the elder had even proposed to do his darning. But Dr. Boggs stoutly objected to this. While he was fond of the Misses Simms, and inclined to accept their suggestions, no one but his wife should ever do his darning, and that wife must be a woman of unquestioned youth and beauty. To this resolve he had adhered for twenty-five years, and he could not think of breaking it now.

Although the doctor cherished this ideal of a matrimonial alliance, it must be acknowledged that he had become discouraged in the methods of courtship thus far employed. His failures were a standing joke in Boonville. No wonder then that he began to cast about for secret and more effective means of pursuing his amorous designs.

The idea came to him like an electric shock one morning while reading his paper—he would advertise. So taken was he with this suggestion that he spent one whole day composing and recomposing an advertisement, and when it was finished he took off his glasses and laughed in sheer pleasure of anticipation. What would the Misses Simms think if they knew!

The doctor's advertisement came out in the "Boonville Herald" the following morning. He read it with the satisfaction of a man who has undertaken and accomplished a great deal in life.

"A gentleman of manners and means wishes to correspond with a young lady of beauty and accomplishments. Object: Matrimony."

For a week Dr. Boggs anxiously awaited results. Then at last his patience was rewarded by a dainty little missive which read as follows:

"My Dear O. B.—Your advertisement has come to me as a ray of hope in a very dark life. I am almost eighteen, but because I am considered pretty and my guardians can keep possession of my property until my marriage, they do not allow me to go out without a chaperone. The confinement is killing me. I cannot endure it much longer. If you rescue me from this unhappy fate you will win the lifelong gratitude of one who dares only to sign herself, C. M., Box 84. Boonville."

Now when Dr. Boggs read this letter his sympathetic heart was torn by conflicting emotions; indignation, that this spirited young creature should be bound down under such tyrannical restrictions; pride, that should appeal to him for freedom; happiness, that he was soon to see the realization of his fondest hopes.

In hot haste he penned an answer, assuring her of his readiness to do everything in his power, and begging her to reveal her identity that he might be able to make some move in

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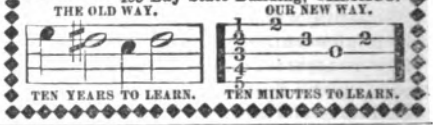
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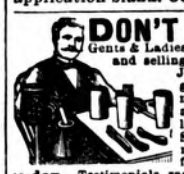
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her behalf. But this, she wrote him, would be useless at present, for her people would not listen to reason. Her only hope lay in an elopement. She appreciated his generous offer, oh, so much, and should the time ever come, would be glad to take advantage of it. Meanwhile she wanted to know more of her unknown friend. Would he object to sending his photograph.

The doctor looked at this request and scratched his head dubiously. He had not had a photograph taken in twenty-five years. But, happy thought, there was one left of his college days. He would send that with a request for one of hers in exchange.

For ten days following this no answer came from her. The doctor was worried and perplexed, wondering what had happened. When she did write it was to tell him that her mail had come under suspicion. She was no longer allowed even stamps, and did not know when she could send the picture or write again. The doctor replied promptly, enclosing a dollar's worth of postage and urging her to accept him as a sure escape from such unjust espionage. She sent the photograph the next day. It was his ideal of feminine loveliness. After seeing it, he was spurred to greater impatience to meet and know the original.

He wrote now more frequently, in every letter urging her to arrange a meeting. She objected at first, demanding a pledge of good faith. Dr. Boggs marvelled that he had not thought of this before. The ring he had used for twenty-five years still lay in its faded blue plush box, a little worse for wear, but thick and heavy still. He got it out and polished it up a bit, then wrapped it in a new box and sent it to her. This proof of his earnestness seemed to satisfy her for shortly afterwards she agreed to his request and appointed a place for the meeting. It was to be in a secluded corner of the park, and the time half past eight that night. He would know her by a long gray cape and a blue fascinator she would muffle about her face as a disguise. On no account was he to appear later than the time mentioned.

Dr. Boggs set about making preparations. He felt almost ready to receive congratulations. He took a minister into his confidence. Next he instituted such a house renovation as brought the Misses Simms over to remonstrate with him. Did not he know that the fall was an unseasonable time for house cleaning? But the doctor pushed ahead with the air of one who knows what he is about and is not open to advice. The Misses Simms would receive a glorious enlightenment in a few days.

When night came he dressed with great care, and dyed his hair afresh. He had not forgotten that photograph and she must not detect the years intervening. On the stroke of eight he put on his hat and hurried up town. For half an hour he strolled aimlessly about the streets, consulting his watch at every corner. When the time arrived he slipped over to the park gate and entered stealthily. As he approached the spot designated he began to feel some natural misgivings. What if she deceived him—if she did not come. But no, his heart gave a great leap of triumph! On a rustic seat, immersed in shadow, sat a slender gray figure wearing a blue fascinator. Without a moment's hesitation he went forward and sat down beside her. The girl did not speak. Her head was bowed and she seemed to be weeping. All the gallantry of the man's nature rose to the occasion.

"Do not be frightened little one; I am here to protect and rescue you. Are you willing to trust me?"

"Yes," she whispered, striving for composure, "I believe you are my friend."

"Friend? Ah, that is not the word. I love you; I will do anything for you."

"Will you save me from my persecutors?"

"Will I? What would I not do for such a beautiful young creature? Only grant me the privilege and you shall be my wife before to-morrow night."

"Do you love me as much as that? You have not known me long."

"Long enough to love you better than life. Will you promise me now?"

She hung her head as if shyly considering.

"But my circumstances—you forget that I cannot get possession of my money even for stamps."

"Ah! I see, but that shall be no obstacle. If you will accept——"

The doctor was divesting himself of all his available change, and searching his pockets for a match to make out a draft in his bank book. So absorbed was he that he did not notice a movement in the shrubbery behind, which caused his companion to start up as if preparing for flight. The doctor, not to be cheated on the very eve of success, threw his arms around her and drew her back with the intention of planting his betrothal kiss upon her lips. The kiss fell harmless upon the old gray cape for she sprung from his arms, leaving it with him, and then such a laugh fell upon the still night air as no woman ever uttered. The next instant there stood revealed—Ned Simms, bereft of the blue fascinator, an old black riding skirt dangling over his long legs and his angular figure grotesquely incased in one of his aunts old tea-jackets; and from every quarter there issued shrieks of laughter as a crowd of mischievous boys gathered around to witness the thrilling scene. The merriment was cut short, however, by the resounding whack of the doctor's cane which came down among them, scattering them to the four corners of the park, but though no broken bones followed the stroke, something else gave way beneath it—twenty-five years of cherished sentiment.

"I've played the fool for the last time," said Dr. Boggs, as he walked back through the park, "but I'll punish that young scoundrel yet and—and—I'll marry too, before to-morrow night."

Ten minutes later he rang the door bell of the Misses Simms.

"There is our disobedient boy at last," said the elder Miss Simms to her sister. "Ned is getting so bad; he needs a man to control him. We will have to go and let him in."

They had just put on their caps preparatory to making their toilets for the night, and did not stop to remove them. As the door opened, to their dismay the light fell upon the electrified countenance of Dr. Boggs.

"Which one of you offered to darn my socks?"

"I did," admitted the elder.

"Are you ready to begin to-morrow?"

"Why, certainly, doctor, if I can accommodate you."

"Well, I'll bring the minister over at seven. Please be ready. Good night."

Thus Dr. Boggs secured his revenge—a poetic retribution which even Ned's fertile brain had never contemplated.

One Pair of Home-Beginners.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



MY wife and I have been married five years, and we are just beginning to "get clear of the woods," as the saying is, with respect to the difficulties and perplexities of establishing a home on a small income. It has been a hard struggle, but a winning one, nevertheless. We have been encouraged in our labors and self-denials by seeing how steadily, if slowly, we were approaching the end we had in view—the independent control of a home.

I imagine I see before me an audience of young married couples, just about to undertake the same enterprise; and a strong desire seizes me to tell them, very frankly and practically, what we—my wife and I—have learned from the experience of the past five years. Perhaps they might get some useful suggestions from the report, or at least some warning against the mistakes which we made and had to undo.

In the first place, with respect to the house; we will suppose that you are to provide your own shelter, as most young couples do, and prefer to do, and that you start out with the average income of fifteen dollars a week. We found that most of our young married friends were renting and were at first inclined to follow their example; but, thanks to the advice of a real estate agent—whether disinterested or not I cannot say—we chanced upon a better way, one which has turned out most advantageously to us and which we can heartily recommend to all home-beginners. We borrowed $2400 from a co-operative bank, paid $250 down, and bought outright a new, cozy, seven-room suburban cottage, equipped with all the modern conveniences. There are plenty more for sale at the same price all about us.

The principle upon which co-operative banks are operated is too involved to be explained here. But it will be sufficient to say that they are absolutely safe, and provide a means by which home-beginners can borrow a larger sum, at the outset, than could be obtained from a saving's bank. We paid into the bank each month $24.60, of which $12.60 was interest on the sum borrowed, and $12, sharing in the profits of the bank's investments, was placed to our credit, to form a sinking fund which should gradually extinguish the loan. Many of our friends were paying from $15 to $20 per month for the mere rental of cottages like ours. We were paying out a little more than that, to be sure, but getting back nearly half of it each month in the form of an interest-drawing deposit.

The result of this arrangement exceeded our most sanguine expectations, for, at the close of the fourth year, by adding only $200 in cash, we found ourselves able to "get out" of the co-operative bank and exchange our loan of $1700, which, at six per cent. interest, enabled us to practically own our own home, at a yearly cost for shelter of $102. We do not try to pay anything on the mortgage, preferring to let it lie, as it would be easier to sell our equity in the house and lot, should we care to, than to obtain the full cash value of the property.

This, then, is one great advantage of going into a co-operative bank—to use it as a stepping-stone to obtaining a saving's bank loan. The latter one could not secure at the outset, since savings banks will loan only two-thirds of the assessed value of real estate. The profits on your sinking-fund investment in the co-operative bank are comparatively large, and you will be surprised to see how few years it will take to "graduate from" the co-operative and reduce your monthly bill for shelter two-thirds. If you choose, of course, you can remain in the co-operative bank until your loan is extinguished and house paid for. But that means a period of from ten to fifteen years of compulsory monthly payments, which remain all the way through as large as at the outset. By our plan, we had only four years of this noticeable financial drain. Now we obtain the same shelter—and may have it as long as we choose, since savings banks are not accustomed to call in good loans—for a trifle over $8.00 a month. And $8.00 shelter means, for us, a new modern house, with all up-to-date conveniences and appliances, only ten minutes by rail from the heart of a great city.

We think, therefore, that we have solved that first problem of shelter, fairly satisfactorily.

We made a serious mistake, however, with respect to the next great problem, that of bringing running expenses within the limits of income remaining after paying the cost of shelter. It took us two years to learn that the chief function of a new home is not the continuous entertainment of old friends. "Company" during those first two years cost us more than we had any right to expend for the mere delight of showing off our new home. We did not realize where the drain came from that was keeping us continually behind until a period of respite from "company" disclosed it to us. It was more than half our own fault, too, for we had many appreciative relatives and "chums" on both sides, and warmly encouraged their coming to visit us. A month without a guest was rare, at the beginning of our domestic life. But we stopped this sort of a thing when we discovered what it meant; and perhaps the mistake we made—the mistake of overdoing a good thing—may help others to avoid a financial set-back at a time when every extra penny is needed to complete the furnishing of the new home.

Another mistake, which we were three years in discovering, was this; that meat is required but once a day, and that the health and working powers are promoted by its minimum use. For three years our big expense item in the food account was for meat. We bought the best and made it "the chief of our diet,"—warm for breakfast and dinner and cold for lunch. Then the doctor had to be called in for some obstinate ailment, and his verdict was: "Overheated blood—inflammatory tendency. Reduce your meat diet." We reduced it at once, and have been much improved in health and purse ever since. Make a comparative trial of it, if you will, young beginners—a month of meat, and a month almost without it—and see what your verdict is, all things considered, at the expiration of that time.

We made a mistake in the other direction, by trying to do some things too cheaply. For instance, we screened our whole house with ready-made, "adjustable" screens, at fifty cents each—and the mosquitoes nearly ate us up. We had to discard every one of those screens (they are up garret now), and hire a carpenter to make us fitted screens at seventy-five cents each. After which we lived in perfect comfort, so far as insects are concerned.

The first winter we bought twenty-four bushels of potatoes, at wholesale rates, and stored them in our dry, cemented cellar. Before they were half gone, however, the percentage of decay was so great that we had to get our grocer to take them off our hands at a very low figure. Loss, about $4.50. Another mistake in domestic economy, you see. A small family, I believe, should buy all perishable provisions in small quantities. Don't try the hotel or boarding-house plan with two or three mouths. It doesn't pay.

In conclusion, I submit a few items of advice, condensed for lack of space:

With a family of two or three, the young wife can, and ought to, do her own housework, with the exception of washing and heavy scrubbing. In nine cases out of ten, she will be better satisfied than if she paid, boarded and worried over a raw servant.

Buy matting instead of carpets for all chambers. One or two small rugs, with plain matting of good quality, will make the ideal chamber, for health, convenience, and looks.

Clean house twice a year, in the spring and fall, and take one room at a time, letting the whole process extend over several weeks. When you are done, you won't realize that you have passed through the great and long-dreaded ordeal of old-fashioned housekeeping.

Furnish your house gradually, desiring everything long enough to know that you really want it.

Live by system. Have a time for everything and a place for everything, and learn to be miserable whenever domestic regularity is violated.

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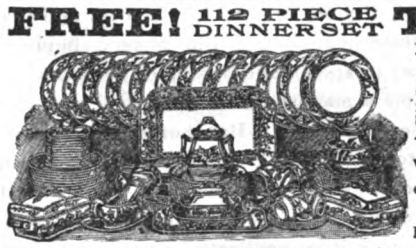
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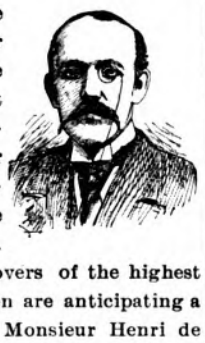
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The American historical novel has grown into a very popular form of fiction. The larger per cent. of successes in the literary field have been among those who have used American history as a basis. One of the earlier writers in this popular field is acknowledged as one of the best in spite of the competition of these later years. Molly Elliott Seawell is a most charming young Virginian. She is a tall, handsome young woman with a quick, direct manner that hardly suggests that her early life was passed in the quiet surroundings of a Virginia country neighborhood. She has made her home in Washington for some time where her talent, her success and her thoroughbred manner have won her friends and the entree into literary circles of the capital. Her first success came through a series of Russian stories. Their reception encouraged her to write Maid Marion in 1886. These were all short stories but they brought a request from a publisher for a complete novel. Hale Weston was written, The Berkleys and Their Neighbors and Throckmarters soon followed. Among her best known books are: The History of the Lady Betty Stair, The Rock of the Lion, A Virginia Cardlin, and Children of Destiny. The last named is in a somewhat different vein from the others but Miss Seawell declares "It is by far my best book." Miss Seawell has demonstrated the fact that ease and success in writing come from practice. Twice she has been a prize winner when names of authors were unknown and the competition was solely on the merits of the story. She won a prize of $500 offered by the Youth's Companion for a child's story. "Little Jarvis" was the winner and when the names were read it was found that it was no unknown writer who had distanced competitors. The New York Herald offered a prize of $3000 for the best novelette. The competition was very strong, thousands of manuscripts being received. Many of our successful writers entered the lists as well as hundreds of unknown authors. "The Sprightly Romance of Marvac" was pronounced the best novelette and when the author's name was drawn from the envelope it was Molly Elliott Seawell. Miss Seawell is one of the best examples of the "new regime" in the South, and among all the brilliant Southern women whose success has been a development of causes arising from changed conditions, she occupies one of the leading positions.



A leading feature of the study of French in our colleges has become the series of lectures in that language by some prominent French writer or critic. This idea was introduced by the Cercle Francais de l'Universite. Harvard Students and lovers of the highest form of literary expression are anticipating a rare treat in listening to Monsieur Henri de Regnier. On the first of March he commenced the delivery of the series of eight lectures at Harvard. After completing the course there he will be heard at the Adelphi college in Brooklyn and then at the universities of Columbia, Princeton, Brown, Chicago, California, and Vassar, Wellesley, Bryn Mawr and other colleges and schools throughout the United States. His lectures are on the topic of Modern Poetry. He is eminently fitted to speak to the college world of America on this topic as he is recognized in France as a leader of the new school of poetry. He was made a Chevalier of the Legion of Honor in 1897 and this year the French Academy awarded him the Prier Vitet for his works. He is the author of Sites, Arethuse, and many volumes of short stories and poems. His wife is recognized as one of the most gifted and beautiful women in France.

To be the writer of a great hymn is to come more closely into communion with the feelings and emotions of mankind than could be done in any other way. Thousands are familiar with the words of "God be with you till we meet again." It has been translated into almost every foreign language where the story of Christianity is told and is literally sung around the world. All know the beautiful words and tune, but all do not know that the author of the hymn is Dr. Rankin, the President of Howard University, Washington, D. C. This school is partly supported by the government and now has nearly seven hundred pupils. Dr. Rankin teaches in the school, conducts the religious exercises daily and oversees the printing of a student paper to which he furnishes a monthly sermon. He has written many hymns and poems although none have caught the popular fancy like the "God be with you" one. Dr. Rankin is of Scotch descent. His ancestors are of sturdy New England stock. In 1848 Dr. Rankin graduated from Middlebury college and in 1854 from the theological school at Andover. His pastorates were at Potsdam, N. Y., St. Albans, Vt., Lowell, Mass., Boston and Washington. For fifteen years he preached to crowded congregations in Washington. He left the pastorate then to take up his work at Howard University. His literary work is of a high rank. He has published a volume of German translations and one little Scotch poem of his, "The Babie," has been published in a volume of gems of poetry. His work has been varied and successful. He has touched human life at many points but nowhere so successfully as in the great hymn which may truthfully be called a song that captured Christendom.



Mary Wilkins has an international fame through her stories of plain New England life. She has grasped the essence of New England character and placed it before the world in simple, direct language. There is wonderful art in her writing but it is art so simple and sincere that it seems pure nature. Miss Wilkins lives at Randolph, Massachusetts, where she was born. The greater part of her life was passed at Brattleboro, Vermont, but upon the death of her father she returned to her early home in Massachusetts, where she took up her residence with a life-long friend, Miss Mary Wales. Miss Wilkins has very fair hair with a touch of gold light in it, blue eyes and a fair, delicate complexion. She is very simple and direct in speech and speaks of her work in so simple a manner that one almost forgets the fame she has won. Her short stories are familiar to all magazine readers and have been translated into French, Italian and German. Her novel, Pembroke, is now running as a serial in a leading Paris publication and her other long story, Jerome, is being dramatized for the American stage. Miss Wilkins is alone in the world but seems to find occupation and diversion in her work. She rarely leaves Randolph and although she would be welcomed in the inner literary circles of the great cities she stays in her New England hills and in the midst of the life that she so accurately portrays. She says that she has a regular time to write but she never writes in it. She uses a type writer, or rather two, and has two different stories in progress at the same time. Her favorite among her stories is Silence, which is a dramatic picture of the Deerfield massacre during the old French wars. Her work is read to a little circle of her friends. Miss Wilkins has the faith in herself of all who really succeed. She believes that she has not yet done her best but that she can write the great American novel. She declares that this idea that she can do is her success. She never feels that she has done her best work. She says the one thing she could do was to write and her success has shown that she does this well.

The Princess Sada of Japan, daughter of Prince Michitaka is betrothed to the Prince Imperial and is therefore future Empress of Japan. She is cousin of the heir apparent to the throne and comes of a family from whose ranks many empresses have been chosen. The princess is but sixteen years of age and is of fine figure with the bright dark coloring of her race. Her family is the Fujiward which traces its ancestry back for forty-seven generations. The family name means Wisteria Meadow. The trousseau comes from Europe, Japan and China. Japanese ladies of high rank always have a full outfit of European dresses in addition to the beautiful garments of crepe, embroidered silk and gauze that furnish the material for native costumes.



Olga Nethersole has aroused much discussion ever since her advent on the American stage. For the last few months New York City has been busy discussing the propriety of her new play Sapho. The actress and her manager were finally arrested at the instance of one of the daily papers that has earned the appellation of "Yellow." Petitions were circulated asking that the play be suppressed. There is no censorship of plays in America and public opinion must decide the fate of any play. Miss Nethersole has received more free advertising than usually falls to the lot of stage favorites, but it is doubtful whether she is willing to accept the notoriety for fame. Miss Nethersole is a very hard worker and scorns the idea that acting holds any easy prizes. She has the habit common to all who succeed of discouraging any one from an attempt to enter her profession. It is natural that all who succeed should have a vivid realization of the hard steps that have led to success. Olga Nethersole has been on the stage ten years. She was a governess before she became an actress but in spite of the opposition of her family the wish was strong within her to try the stage. She had no acquaintance with theatrical people but finally made the acquaintance of a lady who through an actor friend purchased her a letter of introduction to a London manager. For three months she tried to present her letter and it was not until the letter had been in his possession for six weeks that she was granted a five minutes interview. Difficulties had led to the first step towards success for she left his presence with a part and the promise of an engagement. The play in which she appeared was called Harvest. She was ambitious to play in London but for two years she travelled around the provinces working with an earnestness that was almost desperation. She played many parts with a travelling company that gave a different play each night. She was asked to take a new part at twenty-four hours' notice. All night she studied the part, rehearsed it once and played it that night. A London critic happened to be in the audience and gave her a most favorable notice in a London paper. A London engagement came within a month. The fight was not yet won, for the London critics were chary of praise, but the three years she passed as a member of a London stock company were the most comfortable of her stage experience. Miss Nethersole was not content to enjoy the favorable tolerance of the London audiences. Her restless ambition wished a larger recognition. She organized a company and journeyed seventeen thousand miles to Australia. The burden of the success or failure of the company rested with her. She succeeded and returned to London to become leading lady in the stock company of the Garrick theater. Miss Nethersole came to America and was at once declared one of the leading emotional actresses of the day. She says she used to spend the time when she was not on the stage in standing in the wing, watching the work of the others and endeavoring to gain ideas from it. She was rarely without a copy of some standard play in her hand and could have played any of the leading roles at almost a moment's notice. Among her cherished mementoes are two letters; one from the celebrated John Toole and the other from Sir Henry Irving. Mr. Toole strongly urged her not to take the stage as a profession, but Irving encouraged her, but at the same time pointed out the difficulties of the way. It is certain that the place Miss Nethersole has won at the top has come through strenuous effort. One is led to believe more and more strongly in the idea that the genius that wins in the world of to-day is solely the genius for hard work. Whenever one who has won what the world acknowledges as success speaks of the steps, it is the same story—work, work, work. Courage that is never daunted, patience that knows no end, belief in yourself—and work. Miss Nethersole has succeeded because she would not understand discouragement and refused to be content with even moderate success.

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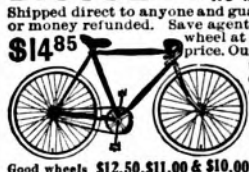


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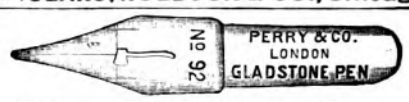
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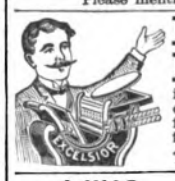
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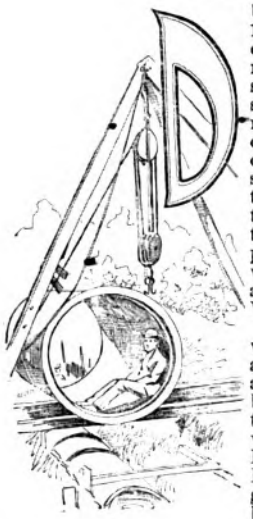


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The Metropolitan Water System.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



URING the years of 1893 and 1894 it became apparent that radical steps must be shortly taken to insure a better and much increased supply of water for the City of Boston and its suburban cities and towns. It was with this object in view that the Governor appointed a commission which became known as the Metropolitan Water Board.

The suggestion which met with the approval of this Board, and which since has been acted upon, was the taking of the waters of the South Branch of the Nashua River to meet the greater demands brought about by the increasing population and the deteriorating quality of the water being used at that time.

The point at which it was determined to tap the Nashua River was twelve miles from the Sudbury Reservoir, which at that time was in process of construction by the City of Boston.

It was deemed advisable by the Board to make connection with the Sudbury System at as early a date as permanent and satisfactory work would permit, in order that a means of satisfying the increasing demands might be available in case a year of drouth should necessitate an addition to the existing water supply.

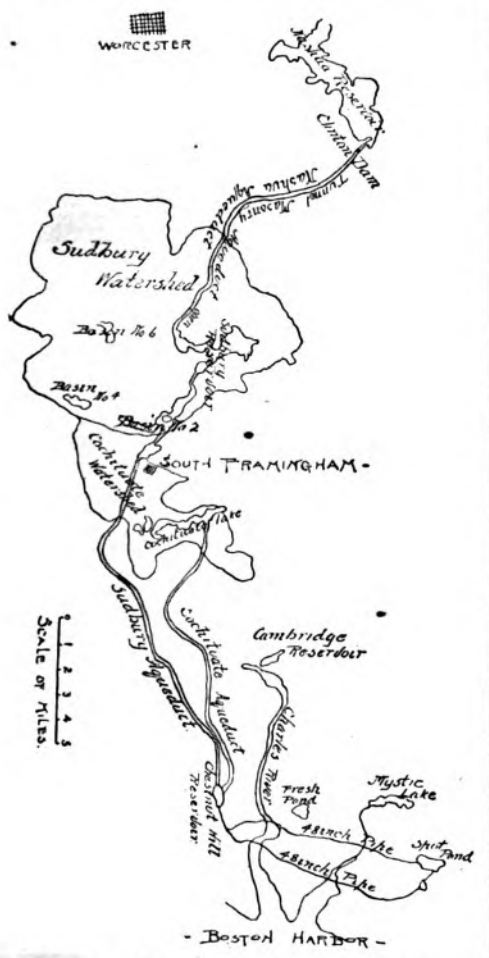
In February 1896 the contract for building the first two miles of the Nashua Aqueduct, so called, was awarded, and work was immediately commenced. This contract called for a tunnel ten feet and ten inches high, and twelve feet and two inches wide, and it was built through solid rock the entire distance. The cost was $370,826. In May the contracts for constructing the seven miles of covered masonry joining the aforesaid tunnel were awarded and work was pushed forward with vigor. The cost of this section was $721,580.60. The last contract calling for the construction of three miles of open channel reaching to the Sudbury Reservoir was awarded in September, and on March 7, 1897, the work was completed so that the waters of the Nashua River were admitted to the aqueduct, joining the waters of the Sudbury System. The cost of this open channel was $89,470. The total cost of this aqueduct was $1,246,552.85, including the amount paid for a bridge over the Assabet River.

This aqueduct is capable of carrying 300,000,000 gallons of water per day, and during 197 days following its opening, the average amount of water that passed through it daily was nearly 50,000,000 gallons, which amount was sufficient to supply the Metropolitan District, combined with the existing resources.

Work on the Sudbury Reservoir had meanwhile been carried on, completing that already performed by the City of Boston, so that when the water from the Nashua River was introduced through the Nashua Aqueduct, it was filled early in April. This reservoir has a capacity of 7,500,000,000 gallons; thus it will be readily seen that it is possible to fill this reservoir, supposing it to be empty, in twenty-five days, the Nashua Aqueduct running to its full capacity day and night.

In time of drouth, however, the Nashua River could not be drawn upon to any great extent, and it was to guard against such a possibility, that the Board advised the building of an immense reservoir at the head of the Nashua Aqueduct.

The land decided upon and purchased for this purpose embraces considerable portions of several townships—Boylston, West Boylston, Clinton and Sterling. At the time of purchase there were standing upon this land six schoolhouses, four churches and two hundred and twenty-four dwelling-houses. The Commonwealth paid $1,905,734,22. It covers an area approximating six and one half square miles, and will have a coast line of about thirty-five miles. The water at its deepest point will be one hundred and twenty-nine feet deep, and the average depth will be forty-six feet. Many hills will be covered to a greater or less depth by the water from the Nashua River, and those exceeding the height of one hundred and twenty-nine feet will either be partly removed, or rise above the waters as islands, of which there will undoubtedly be a considerable number. This reservoir will contain 63,000,000,000 gallons of water, or more than eight times the storage capacity of the Sudbury Reservoir, proposed by the City of Boston.



All organic matter, stumps, logs and debris, and every vestige of loam is being removed, the matter as far as possible being used in the construction of a great dam at Clinton, and its adjacent dikes. Thousands of Italians are at work and on the whole this immense work is being carried along as fast as the contracts demand.

The dam at Clinton extends across the valley to the distance of twelve hundred and fifty feet. It is being built of masonry and is built upon solid rock foundations. The maximum height of the water line above the surface of the ground will be one hundred and eighty-four feet. Lest a disaster similar to that occurring at Johnstown Penn., should come to pass in the course of time, the work has been carried on with the most scrupulous care, every stone being placed in position under the eye of the most trusted foremen that the State can employ.

To the North and South of this dam great dikes are being built, which shall prevent the water from spreading out on either side of the dam.

Perhaps no better idea of the extent of the Metropolitan Water Works can be given than that shown on page 19, in the Fourth Annual Report of the Metropolitan Water Board:

"At 12 o'clock on the first day of January, 1898, the Board, in accordance with the provisions of the Metropolitan Water Act, took possession of Chestnut Hill Reservoir and pumping station, and all the lands, reservoirs, dams, aqueducts, pumps and other property held by the City of Boston westward of Chestnut Hill Reservoir, for the purposes of storing and supplying water and protecting its purity, including Lake Cochituate and the Cochituate Aqueduct, the Sudbury basins and Sudbury Aqueduct, and the Mystic Lake Aqueduct, pumping station and reservoir. The lands taken were situated in the counties of Suffolk, Norfolk, Middlesex and Worcester. All these works were added to those which had been previously acquired and constructed by the Board, and the whole constitutes the Metropolitan Water Works."

Upon taking possession of the works held by the City of Boston, rigid examinations were made regarding the sanitary conditions connected with the same. Hundreds of instances of pollution of water were abated, and stringent regulations governing the future care of the water supply were passed by the Board.

Upon the examination of the water of the Mystic Lake it was found that its inferior quality would prove a menace to the health of those who used it. No steps could be taken that would improve its condition to any extent, and there were reasons for believing that it would deteriorate in spite of the best care and regulation. Therefore it was deemed best to discontinue its use altogether, and in accordance with the decision of the Board this was done.

Certain sections of the Metropolitan Districts could not be supplied with water on account of their elevation, and these, with the exception of one part of Roxbury, have been supplied through the use of more powerful pumping engines than those in use at the time of purchase from the City of Boston.

A High Service Reservoir is being constructed in the Middlesex Fells, about 2,500 feet southeasterly from Spot Pond, and will be 137 feet above the Chestnut Hill Reservoir, and 117 feet above Spot Pond, and it will have a capacity of over 38,000,000 gallons.

The cities and towns embraced in the Metropolitan District are at the present time: Boston, Chelsea, Everett, Malden, Medford, Newton, Quincy, Somerville, Belmont, Hyde Park, Melrose, Revere, Watertown, Winthrop, Swampscott and Nahant. To supply these towns, especially the remote ones, it was necessary to lay an immense amount of waterpipes; these varied from four inch to sixty-one inch, and their weight far exceeds the hundred thousand tons mark. Our initial cut gives a good idea of the size of the large mains used at some points.

By reference to the map, a good idea of the extent of the Metropolitan System can be gained. On the right is the Nashua Reservoir, or Wachusett, as it is sometimes called, in process of construction. At the Northeast end of this reservoir is the Clinton dam extending across the Nashua Valley, and it is here that the Nashua Aqueduct has its beginning, extending in a southeasterly direction to the Sudbury Reservoir; thence the waters of the Nashua join the waters of Basins 1, 2 and 3, are hurried away through the Sudbury Aqueduct in an easterly and then northeasterly direction, until the waters from the Cochituate Aqueduct join the former at the Chestnut Hill Reservoir. From this reservoir forty-eight inch pipes take a portion of the waters to Spot Pond, and presently to the reservoir half a mile to the southeast of this reservoir, these supplying the high-service portions of the Metropolitan District. Other mains carry water to the south and southeast, supplying Newton, Roxbury, Hyde Park, etc., the whole making a grand water system that will undoubtedly prove sufficient to supply the Metropolitan District for the next century.

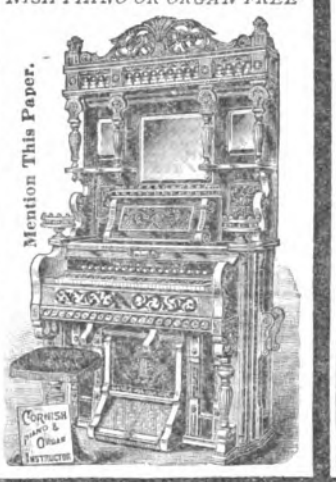
Bonds bearing interest not exceeding four per cent. and issued for not less than thirty, nor more than forty years, have been authorized by the Commonwealth, the limit being set at $27,000,000, with which to carry on the work of the Metropolitan Water System. Already, $17,000,000 have been expended. The next few years will show whether the estimates of the Board were accurate. Judging by the work already performed, it would seem that the amount above stated would be sufficient.

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GOOD ASSORTMENT up to $18.00. We send them to anyone, to be paid for after received, tried on and found perfect in fit and entirely satisfactory; a class of fine tailoring possessing a distinctiveness in Style, Workmanship, Finish and Fit seldom found outside of the most fashionable city tailoring establishments. FOR SAMPLES OF CLOTH of our ENTIRE LINE of CUSTOM TAILORING Suitings, Trouserings, Fancy Vestings, etc., also tape measure, fashion plate, plain, simple self-measurement blanks, cut this ad. out and send to us with 2-cent stamp to pay postage and COMPLETE OUTFIT WILL BE SENT TO YOU POSTPAID.

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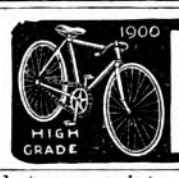
(Sears, Roebuck & Co. are thoroughly reliable.—Editor.)

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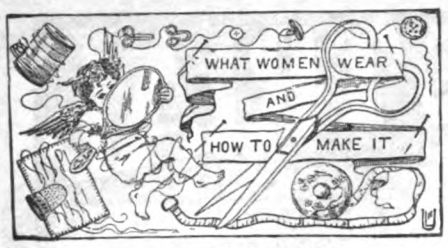
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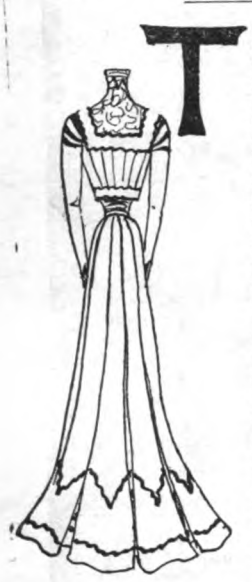
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WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



TO my mind there is no more important part of woman's dress than the skirt; to it we look for most of the important changes in modes, the bodice usually following rather than leading. Skirts with plaits still reign unquestioned, although their rapid spring into favor made the skeptical ones feel certain of their early downfall. The slim, perfectly tight skirt, with nothing to relieve, has to all appearances had its day, a fact which is a positive relief to many who looked upon the fashion as little short of indecent, although from an æsthetic point of view and when correctly worn, no mode was ever more graceful. Still, whether our tastes incline us toward the tight or more bouffant style of skirt, we are very apt to be suited, as the skirts of the present moment have been carefully weeded with pleasing results.

All the new skirts are perfectly tight and flat at the hips; usually made with stitched plaits, giving the lower part of the skirt the fullness necessary to grace and free motion. On all thin materials, as muslins or silks, the back of the skirt is laid in gathers drawn very snugly into a small compass, but on all other materials the box-plaited back, single, double or triple, obtains.

A pretty way of decorating the box-plaited back of a silk skirt is to arrange a cluster of loops of velvet ribbon on either side, of any length desired.

A smart rig for shore or mountain wear has a scarlet coat faced with red and white check worn with a red and white checked skirt and a white lace waist.

A quaint summer bit of millinery is a narrow-brimmed, low-crowned turban of soft, satiny straw, bearing at each side on the brim a round tight bunch of flowers, violets or small roses. The most pleasing of all this season's hats to me are those turned up at the front and down in the back over the hair, trimmed with scarfs of two shades of panne velvet or satin.

The Eton is here with a certainty and we all greet is as a much loved friend; this, with the bolero and the short reefer, forms the outlines of our summer coats.

Flower hats are to be the loudest cry during mid-summer. Stalks and leaves predominate, to be sure, but there are sufficient blooms of brilliant hue to make the wearer of this floral millinery marked a block away. However, they are lovely and if one is careful to select good flowers with fadeless qualities, the hat will prove a positive boon to the economical woman as it can be made to do duty with such a variety of gowns, grave or gay.

I saw such a chic gown of russet brown cashmere, a deliciously vivid shade, trimmed with brown silk spotted with white and edged with straps of the cloth stitched with white.

A black cloth gown has for its distinctive feature on the tucked skirt, four smart little crocheted buttons on each plait. These plaits widen out toward the foot and the bottom has for a finish three tiny flat folds of silk. The bodice is formed of small stitched bands, fastened to the waist with smaller crocheted buttons than those on the skirt. The revers of white silk are delicately embroidered in pale blue and the stock of tucked white silk has a binding on its upper edge of pale blue panne velvet. With it is worn a soft flat toque of soft black straw, decorated with two wavy plumes and a choux of pale blue panne velvet fastened with a paste buckle.



AN EARLY SPRING STREET GOWN.

A simple yet extremely fetching little gown of black taffeta spotted with white has a gracefully hung skirt finished with three rows of accordion plaited silk. The back of the skirt has a triple box-plait as has also the back of the bodice, while the front of the latter has box-plaits either side of the opening. The small round yoke and snug sleeves are of rather heavy black lace, unlined. The lace stock, finished with a piping of white velvet, while the finishing touch to the entire costume is a choux of white velvet ribbon arranged in a lover's knot and worn on the breast.



AN ODD CAPE.

A little accordion plaiting on a gown gives it the cachet of elegance and is an inexpensive addition too, if not used too extravagantly. A lovely little tea jacket is composed entirely of pale blue silk with stitched edges set together with coarse yellow lace. The sleeves in loose fashion from the elbow finished with deep lace on the edge, and the whole set off by knots of baby black velvet ribbon arranged down the front, and along the back of the sleeves. A pretty blue silk Kimona is trimmed with bands of dead white crepe de chine with a tiny quilling of black velvet along its edge. My lady is given to donning a gown when in the privacy of her own chamber which resembles a Mother Hubbard made of softest China silk intersected crosswise with bands of white lace, worn over an under slip of white silk trimmed with a number of lace flounces on the skirt.

Muslins are especially pretty this season, having a pattern evenly divided between stripes and floral designs; both often embodied in the same goods. In the matter of underclothes the women with the most refined tastes insist on every stitch being hand work and that of the finest; the night robes being entirely collarless, finished with tiny edging of finest embroidery and tiny hand-run tucks. Baby velvet ribbons are the favorite trimming on a large majority of the new frocks, and are a most effective finish. A novelty in the form of a yoke seen on a muslin gown is pretty enough to bear description and consists of "all-over" lace run through with baby velvet ribbon, the velvet finished in tiny bows along the edge.



AN UP-TO-DATE SHIRT.

Revers to every toilet are becoming more and more elaborate. Many of the more elaborate show delicately hand-painted flowers, with a sort of new ribbon work introduced which has so far proved wonderfully successful. A chic gown for the summer ball room is of white satin covered with white net lavishly embroidered in black chantilly. Crepe de chine is more fashionable than any other material of the moment and can be used as an entire toilet, or it can form the most exquisite additions to gowns of every kind for ordinary occasions. For instance, a bolero of embroidered crepe de chine on a plain cashmere can be tied over the bust with a soft knot and tasselled ends falling to within a few inches of the hem of the skirt. For entire blouses there is no more charming material.

Deep-shaped waist belts are of the very newest mode. These are draped always, and caught through slides of more or less value, cut steel, old paste, and in fact silver proving most charming adjuncts. These belts are so arranged as to accent the now fashionable long-fronted figure. It is no longer considered "good form" to allow the figure to curve in below the bust. Instead, the line from the bust to the belt must be perfectly straight, reaching considerably below the usual belt line.

Princess dresses are high in favor; yet they are so difficult to make properly that many resort to the little artifice which gives the appearance of a princess by joining skirt and bodice without making them actually one, by means of a waistband tastefully draped.

A GIFT OF EMBROIDERY SILK.

Embroidery silk will cost you a lot of money bought at the store. We have a great jobbing-house lot of rich silk bought at wholesale. No high retail price with a lot of middle profits; but we get actual cost price. We want to give the whole benefit to our lady readers. We have prepared a lot of assorted packages containing a liberal supply of bright, rich, new silk in a variety of tones and shades, which would cost a heap of money bought at the stores. We will send our illustrated bargain list and full assorted, large sized silk package for the ridiculously low price of ten cents; or, three packages for twenty cents. Write to-day before the rush. S. W. LANE & Co., Augusta, Maine.

Wonderful! WONDERFUL! Are you desiring a handsome complexion? If so it will pay you to send to Madame Dupee. Enclose 15 cts. for a sample of her marvelous beautifier. Box 534, Biddeford, Maine.

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Be Stylish—Save Money.

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No. 1901—This hat, as illustrated, is a medium size brown braid made hat, with crown of the prevailing broad bell fashion. The drooping brim has a rolled edge, while the trimming is simple in design but very nobby and stylish in effect. A drape of violet taffeta used in scarf fashion, wired and stitched to retain style, is brought around the crown; a huge bunch of violets is placed high on the left side and smaller bunches cover bandeaus. Can be ordered in all colors. For 25c extra we deliver any trimmed hat express charges prepaid to your nearest express office. Safe delivery guaranteed.

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allowed at the express office. If found equal to suits sold at $10.00 pay the agent **our price** and charges. **When Ordering** give name, address, number, color, bust and neck to waist measure, sleeve length and skirt length. **Free**—Our New **Fashion** Book No. 71, showing 175 up-to-date styles. Send for it.

DESCRIPTION STYLE No. 204.

—Ladies' **Man Made** suit. Cloth extremely good quality sponged and refinished suiting.

Jacket has fly front, scolloped edge, double stitched seams, fancy fitted coat back.

Full width **Skirt** has new inverted plaited back, lapped seams, velvet binding, extra stiffening around bottom and lined with percaline.

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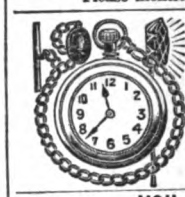
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BEST WAY. We send ONE of the above complete assorted lots FREE to all who send 25 cents for 6 months' subscription to "COMFORT" the best Home Monthly now published, and in order to get you to advertise "COMFORT" and this big bargain to your friends and neighbors we will send **free** with each package our great book, **With Eight Full-Page Illustrations,** for ornamenting the seams of **Crazy Patch work,** or for other ornamental work where Fancy Stitches are used it has no equal. It shows how pieces for patchwork may be put together to get the **best effect,** how to cover up seams with fancy stitches, **how to join edges, etc.**

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EDITOR'S NOTE. The following rules govern the publication of matter in this department.

Contributors must without exception be regular subscribers to Comfort, and every contribution must bear the writer's own name and post-office address in full.

Original letters only, which deal with matters of general interest, will be published. They must be as brief, plain and correct as the writers can make them, and may vary in length from one hundred to four hundred words. Only letters of exceptional merit and interest may reach six hundred and fifty words. Contributors must write on one side of the paper only.

$10 CASH PRIZES $10.

The following cash prizes will be paid monthly:

1st.	For the best original letter	$3.00
2nd.	" " second best original letter	2.50
3rd.	" " third " " "	2.00
4th.	" " fourth " " "	1.50
5th.	" " fifth " " "	1.00

Competitors for these monthly cash prizes must *comply with all the above rules*, and in addition must bring at least one new Cousin into the COMFORT circle; that is, they must send one new subscriber with each letter, together with 50 cents for a yearly subscription.

These cash prizes will be announced monthly in this department.

No premiums will be given for subscriptions sent in under this Prize Offer.

All communications must be addressed to Aunt Minerva, care of COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

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W. J. Showalter,	**$3.00**
Hester V. Grey,	**2.50**
Otho A. Brock,	**2.00**
Mittie A. Schoolfield,	**1.50**
C. C. Prince,	**1.00**

"The spring comes slowly up this way,"
"When proud-pied April, dressed in all his trim,
Hath put a spirit of youth in everything."
"The uncertain glory of an April day"
besprent with April dew,"
"Unlocks the flowers to deck the laughing soil."

DEAR NIECES AND NEPHEWS:

What can I say that will so well suit the season as do these utterances of the poets? So leaving them to be my spokesmen this month I will at once proceed to unfold my budget of letters for your pleasure and satisfaction. Our first one leads us into the beautiful valley of Virginia—one of the "garden-spots of the world." Our cousin says:

Dear Cousins and Aunt Minerva:

"I feel sure you will welcome a newspaper man into your midst to tell you of the great and beautiful valley of Virginia. I know that my audience is a large one and made up of the most intelligent people in Uncle Sam's broad dominions, but with the consciousness that my subject is as interesting as the audience is large I shall, without the least embarrassment, pull aside the great curtain of distance and give to the millions of COMFORT readers a glimpse of this great valley—'the granary of the world;' the region that witnessed one of the most remarkable campaigns known to the annals of war; its history a proud one, its soil fertile, its scenery beautiful, its people busy, prosperous and peaceful, the Valley of Virginia stands at the forefront among the valleys of the world.

"The eye of civilization was first cast upon it when Spottswood and his knights of the Golden Horseshoe beheld it from the crest of the Blue Ridge mountains and took back with them to Williamsburg such a goodly report, like Joshua of old, that the tide of civilization began to flow into it. It was then a primeval forest. Now we behold green fields, thriving towns, beautiful streams, fine country homes, in short, all that goes to make up a charming and diversified scene.

"A short time ago President and Mrs. McKinley passed through the valley and Mr. McKinley pronounced it one of the finest trips he ever made. Join with me now and we will take a similar trip.

"Here we are at Harpers Ferry, the key to the northern entrance to the valley, the stage upon which the first act in the Civil War was enacted. Then we come to Winchester, the scene of so many bloody frays in that war. It was here that President McKinley was made a mason during the war. Cedar Creek and Kernstown, scenes of desperate en-



THE POTOMAC NEAR CUMBERLAND.

counters and hard-fought battles in days gone by, the former the scene of the great ride of Sheridan in which he turned defeat into victory and won for himself undying fame. Thoroughfare Gap is passed. To the west of us is Orkney Springs, one of the most noted mineral springs in the United States. Then comes New Market, the scene of the rout of Siegel and his troops by the boys of the Virginia Military Institute who occasioned the remark by Gen. Grant 'They rob the cradle and the grave.' Then there's Powell's Fort in the fastness of the Massaneuton Mountain which George Washington pronounced the strongest natural fortification in America. Not far away to the east are the far-famed Luray Caverns rivalling the Mammoth Cave of Kentucky in extent and surpassing it in beauty. Massanetta Gertrude Cave and the Weyers Cave are not many miles away. Close at hand are the Massanetta Springs famed for their medicinal waters, and Rawley Springs which have been called 'The Pyrmont of America.' There we see the battle-fields of Port Republic and Cross Keys. It was at these places that Stonewall Jackson defeated the armies of Banks, Shields and Milroy in detail, each larger than his own; and not a little of the unperishable glory which gathered about his name was won on this field.

"Hastening on we come to Lexington, the Athens of Virginia. There we find the West Point of the South, the Virginia Military Institute, pronounced by military critics to be the second military school of the United States, and the Washington and Lee University, founded by the Father of our Country and afterward presided over by that hero of peace as well as of war, Robert E. Lee. Some forty miles southward is the Natural Bridge, one of the Seven Wonders of the World. We have traveled only two hundred miles in our journey.

"Is it any wonder that we Virginians are proud of our valley?

W. J. SHOWALTER, Harrisonburg, Va.

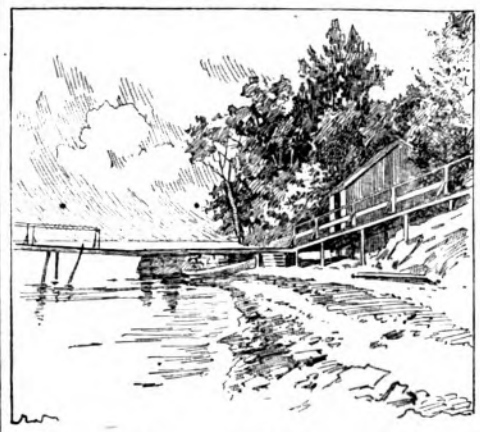
Our next letter still dwells on "Nature's beauty spots," but takes us to Wisconsin to find them.

"'Nature's footprints everywhere, but her home is surely there.' The visitor to this ideal spot leaves with a hazy idea that the poet referred to Kish-ke-kwan-te-no rather than 'fair Killarney.'

"Not only has nature been lavish in her endowments, but man has generously bestowed three names: the Kish-ke-kwan-te-no of the society element; the more plebeian Benderville; and, in historical parlance, Benderville. The pretty Indian name seems to describe the place best, and is far more alluring to the summer tourist.

"Kish-ke-kwan-te-no lies twelve miles from the historic old city of Green Bay, Wisconsin, and is perched on cliffs nearly one hundred feet above the shore. From these cliffs one may gaze far out over Green Bay for miles, the broad expanse of glistening water dotted here and there with lake steamers. If one tires of marine views, magnificent groves of birch, cedar, oak and hickory lend themselves readily to landscape scenery equally entrancing. Though a number of summer cottages nestle in these groves, and a hotel overlooks the bay, nature is yet pre-eminent, and the picturesque habitations of man do not detract from her beauty.

"Naturally, this romantic spot has its legend. The Sauks and Outgamies once dwelt in an old fort here and in that day the forests abounded in deer, and with fish from the bay, their simple Indian wants were plentifully supplied.



KISH-KE-KWAN-TE-NO AT BASE OF CLIFF.

"One night there landed on the shore many fighting men of the Chippewa, Menomonee, Ottawa and Pottawattomie tribes; their canoes lined the shore for two miles, and at daylight the fighting began. The besieged battled bravely, but the water supply was cut off by the warriors on the beach, and all efforts to obtain water were fruitless. The intense agony of thirst was made more unendurable by the burning sun and the cruel taunts of the besiegers. Finally, after fasting ten days, a young chief had a dream. A young man, clothed in white, appeared to him, and said: 'Fear not; I will deliver you. At midnight I will cast a deep sleep over your enemies. Then go forth silently, and you shall escape.' When night came, unbroken silence prevailed in the camp of the enemy. All but a few unbelievers stole forth into the night and made their escape. Those who remained met a speedy death, when day dawned, at the hands of the besiegers." HESTER V. GREY.

Mabel Holbrook, of Everett, Neb., sends us a poem on the death of a friend, but as we do not use poetry I can only thank her for it.

Miss M. M. Abbott, of Perdito P. O., Ala., offers to exchange pressed leaves for old papers, but I am afraid she does not read COMFORT carefully, or she would observe that we no longer have an exchange column.

Miss Belle Hubbard, of Piermont, N. H., must write me again, and tell me more clearly of her wishes. I do not quite understand her letter to me.

Now let us visit our southern friends.

"Mammoth Spring, in the northern part of Arkansas, is a circular opening extending almost perpendicularly into the earth at the foot of a hill. This opening is eighty feet in diameter and its bottom has never been found, though a ninety-pound anvil has been lowered to a distance of eighty-six feet. From this large aperture there gushes a stream of water at the rate of twenty thousand cubic feet a minute. A dam of solid masonry nearly twenty feet in height has been constructed across the basin a few hundred yards below the spring, and the water thus confined forms a lake that covers an area of eighteen acres. This lake has an average depth of fifteen feet and is as clear and blue as the sky. A steamboat for pleasure riding is kept on it, and a ride on this around the spring gives one a good idea of its size. The town is on the west side of the spring and the depot on the east, and a bridge connects the two.

"An interesting phenomenon of the spring is that neither its volume nor its temperature ever vary. In the hottest days of summer and the coldest days of winter the temperature is fifty-seven degrees Farenheit, and in wet seasons or dry the flow is constant.

"At the east end of the dam is a large flouring mill, whose daily capacity is five hundred barrels. A cotton factory, employing two hundred hands, stands at the other end of the dam, while an electric light plant, which furnishes electric light for the town, is situated a mile down the river. Both the spring and the river below contain many fish of rare species."

MITTIE A. SCHOOLFIELD, Ten Mile, Arkansas.

Our next letter is an interesting account of one of the works, not of nature, but of men. The illustration which accompanies this letter is taken from an old drawing done in 1846, about a year after the embankments were finished and the water turned on. It will be noticed from this that the authorities in charge of the work disregarded the orders of the legislature as to the felling of the forests but simply girdled the trees and left them to die standing—cabins and houses were also left standing, to rot and fall away into the water.

"Lake Mercer is the largest artificial body of water in the world. It lies in western Ohio, about midway between Toledo and Cincinnati, and was built in 1837 to 1841 for a feeder of the Miami Extension Canal. It is nine miles long, from three to five miles wide, and has an area of twenty-seven and one-half square miles, and an average depth of about ten feet.

"It was built at a cost of about $90,000, by grading a levee or dam, one and one-half miles long, on the west of a large prairie. Long before the building of this reservoir several adventurers bought land and settled within the prairie now forming the reservoir, and were still living there upon their farms when the banks were completed. The member of legislature from this district introduced a resolution declaring that no water should be let into the reservoir until the same should be cleared of timber and the land paid for. An appropriation of $20,000 was made by the legislature to pay the owners for the land, but this sum was squandered by officials and speculators, and the water was let in, submerging all the farms, destroying wheat crops and driving the owners off their lands.

"This outrage was too much to be borne, and the people of Mercer county, after trying in vain to persuade the authorities to make good the damage done them, assembled in crowds, armed with



LAKE MERCER, FROM AN OLD DRAWING IN 1846.

spades and other tools, and in a few hours had opened an outlet through which the water flowed off their prairie. It cost the state $17,000 to repair these damages.

"The reservoir now forms a beautiful artificial lake, abounding in different kinds of fish, which, with the wild fowl which gather to feed on the fish, afford generous opportunities to the sportsman. During the winter the best of ice is cut from its surface in large quantities; its many natural beauties are beginning to draw crowds of summer visitors and pavilions and cottages are becoming numerous in the vicinity."

OTHO A. BROCK, China, Ohio.

Here is an entertaining letter from our Mississippi cousin.

"There are garden parties and garden parties, but the one given here recently by the members of Trinity church would compare well with the best. The prettiest grounds in town were used and on wires stretched among the trees about the yard were hung gayly colored Japanese lanterns, making a scene beautiful as fairyland. Under the great spreading oak trees were tables strewn with curios and refreshments of all kinds, and near by under a tent was the museum, where quaint things were found, and sleight-of-hand tricks were performed by one who knew the business.

"But best of all, and the most instructive part of this unique party was the circulating library. Those taking part in the library came dressed, or wore something to represent some book, and a prize was given the one who guessed the most books represented and told the authors of the same.

"A dainty little maiden wore 'A lilac sunbonnet' and a stately matron rustled about 'In silk attire,' one of the boys wore 'A yellow aster' in his buttonhole, and 'A woman in white' was easily guessed, while 'The three feathers' pinned on her dress distinguished her from the other girls clad in white, and gave the title of another book. A wise little girl represented several books: she wore 'The black robe,' 'A golden heart' was at her neck, she had 'White wings' and upon her head was a wreath of 'Thorns and orange blossoms.' 'The iron mask' was worn by a young man; in his tie was 'The coral pin' and he carried 'The mistletoe bough' in his hand. Two girls wore flags and roses in their hair and so were 'Under both flags' and 'Under the rose.'

"Many other books were guessed and caused a great deal of pleasure to all participating. The prize was a nicely bound book.

"This party would be just as enjoyable if it took place in the house, and during cold weather rather more so." LOUELLA SPENCE, Pass Christian, Miss.



THE CLIFF, KISH-KE-KWAN-TE-NO.

Next on the list comes a description of that beautiful old Southern city, Savannah. The writer of this letter is a cousin of several years' standing, but it is so long since we heard from him that I feared we had lost him. I welcome him back most heartily.

"When Nature drew between land and sea the boundary line that marks the eastern edge of this continent, she furnished the site for the beautiful city of Savannah with all the requisites of a great seaport centre. A good deep-water harbor and a rich tributary country attracted hither the founder of Georgia, James Edward Oglethorp, to whom George II. granted all the country between the Savannah and the Altamaha rivers, with an indefinite extension westward. In 1732 Oglethorp located his first capital on the site of the present city of Savannah. The town grew but slowly, languished, and in 1752 the original charter was given up and it became a royal province.

"At the beginning of the Revolutionary War, Savannah was the youngest city in any of the original colonies, but had become sufficiently powerful to take a part in the long struggle. In 1778 it was captured by the British and held by them until the close of the war. In 1779 a French fleet and army aided by American forces laid seige to the city, but were compelled to withdraw after a brave assault of nearly two months. During the Civil War her ports were blockaded by Federal forces for four years. Sherman ended his 'march to the sea' here, and the Federal troops held possession during the remaining few months of the war.

"In the last twenty years it has grown rapidly and now consists of a population of about seventy thousand, with a property valuation of $50,000,000 and a commerce of $136,000,000.

"Savannah is eighteen miles from the ocean, and is at the head of ship navigation on the Savannah river. It is the chief naval-stores port of the world and the third largest cotton port of America. It is also headquarters for five lines of steamships, four lines of river steamers and three great railway systems of the South. It has more than seven miles of wharves. The cotton trade cuts a vast figure in the prosperity of this city. The cotton exports last year amounted to one million, one hundred and thirty-one thousand and fourteen bales, valued at $36,642,612. There were also sent out three hundred and twenty-nine thousand, four hundred and sixty-six casks of turpentine, and seven hundred and ninety-four thousand, four hundred and seventy-six barrels of rosin, their value being about $7,000,000.

"The city is beautifully decorated with monuments, among which may be mentioned that of the Revolutionary heroes in Johnson Square, Pulaski in Monterey Square, the cornerstones of each being laid by the Marquis de Lafayette in 1825, the Jasper statue in Madison Square, and the tall Confederate monument upon a terrace in the parade ground. The fine library of the Georgia Historical Society contains twenty-two thousand volumes, devoted largely to the history of Georgia and her neighboring commonwealths. The Telfair Academy of Arts and Sciences, founded through a bequest of a young lady who bequeathed the family mansion and $10,000 for the purpose, has the most comprehensive art collection in the entire South.

"As to the churches, the largest and most costly is the handsome Roman Catholic church; then there is St. Patrick's church and Orphan Asylum, the Independent Presbyterian church and the first Presbyterian, fronting Monterey Square, also the two Methodist churches which are as old as the city, for here John Wesley founded the first Sunday-school in the world in 1736.

"The Savannah Theatre is the oldest place of amusement in America, it having been built in 1818, and has witnessed triumphs of the Booth family, Forrest and others. The chief pleasure ground is the Forsyth Park, laid out in 1851, covering some twenty acres of ground; here President McKinley reviewed the volunteer and regular troops during his Southern trip last December. The streets, shaded by large trees, are well paved and excellent for driving and cycling. Ocean and river resorts attract thousands in the summer months. A model quarantine plant, pure artesian water, cremation of all garbage, and the drainage of low lands around the city make it very healthy."

C. C. PRINCE, Montgomery, Ala.

Margarette Spencer, of Cleveland, Ohio, has made a little mistake. It is another lady of the same name who was the fortunate winner of the prize in this department; but I shall be very glad to give a prize to our Cleveland cousin if she will but write me such a letter as to earn it.

And now my space is full, and we must separate and go about our accustomed duties and pleasures until the "merry month of May" calls us together again.

AUNT MINERVA.

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WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



THE little silk purse which we illustrate is quite the fad, at present, made in any color desired, this one being in black ornamented with steel beads which form the star and the fringe. The top and chain are of oxidized silver. This picture shows the purse nearly full size, and the directions herewith are for a purse of this size. If a larger one is desired, anyone familiar with crochet work will be able to enlarge in the right places, from these directions.

1 spool purse twist, 1 bunch No. 9 steel beads, steel crochet needle No. 0. Thread a sewing needle with silk from spool and string four strings of beads. Remove needle and slip beads down so as to leave a yard or more of silk, and work from spool, not breaking off the silk. With crochet needle make a chain of 5 and join, put 2 in each stitch making 7. Next row put bead and plain stitch in each one, making 7 beads around. Next row put 2 beads and 1 plain in the last each time. Next row, 3 beads and widening stitch in last; so on till you have 6 beads. Next two plain, then 5 beads and so on till you have 1 bead, 2 rows plain round. Make two sides like this and crochet together with 10 bead fringe, making a single stitch between; put clasp on top.



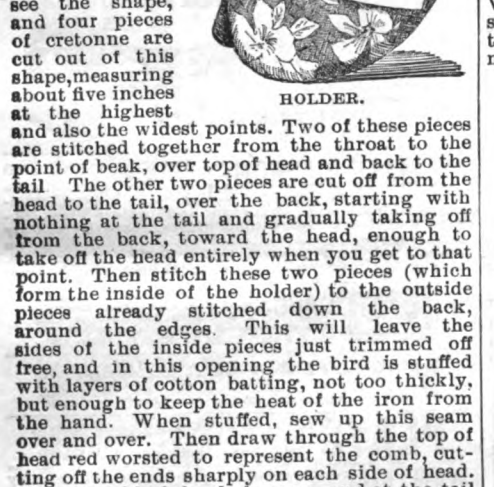
HOLDER.

This picture of a hen is the latest in holders. From the picture it will be easy to see the shape, and four pieces of cretonne are cut out of this shape, measuring about five inches at the highest and also the widest points. Two of these pieces are stitched together from the throat to the point of beak, over top of head and back to the tail. The other two pieces are cut off from the head to the tail, over the back, starting with nothing at the tail and gradually taking off from the back, toward the head, enough to take off the head entirely when you get to that point. Then stitch these two pieces (which form the inside of the holder) to the outside pieces already stitched down the back, around the edges. This will leave the sides of the inside pieces just trimmed off free, and in this opening the bird is stuffed with layers of cotton batting, not too thickly, but enough to keep the heat of the iron from the hand. When stuffed, sew up this seam over and over. Then draw through the top of head red worsted to represent the comb, cutting off the ends sharply on each side of head. Insert two black beads for eyes, and at the tail end sew on a loop made of the cretonne, for hanging up the holder. This also looks like a tail. This holder not only affords a new model for use at fairs and sales, but is also exceedingly comfortable to use, as it fits so well over the handle of the iron and does not slip off as a straight, flat holder does.

POINT LACE HANDKERCHIEF.

This handkerchief is made with point lace braid and crochet, instead of point lace stitches. The beauty of this is, it will look just as well after it has been washed, while if made with point lace stitches it never looks nicely after it has been cleansed.

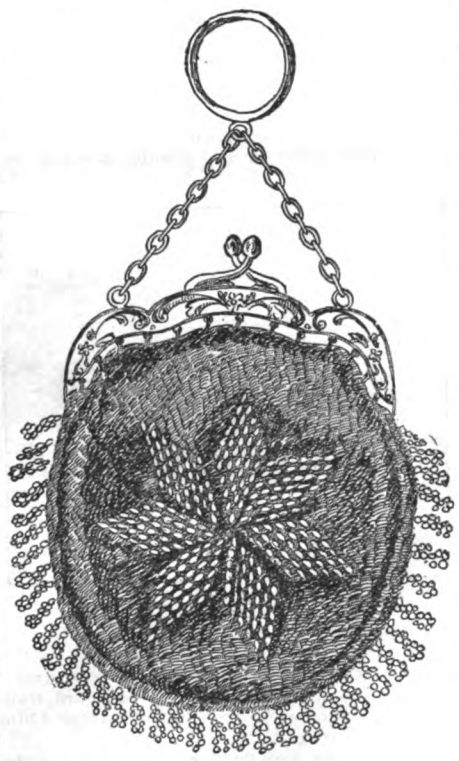
Material, 3 yards point lace braid like illustration; it costs 8 cents per yard. One spool cotton thread, No. 100; piece of linen 9 1-2 inches square. Cut the braid for each piece with thirteen of the oval figures; lap the two ends so it will make exactly 12 of the ovals in each circle; bring two together as in illustration and fasten with needle and thread, making six scallops; crochet 3 times around the outside, 5 chain, catching down with sc. The last row between the scallops make the sc over the other two rows; this makes a good shaped scallop. For the inside part make a chain of 8 stitches and join.



CROCHET POINT LACE.

1. 5 ch, join to center, repeat until you have 12 of these made.
2 and 3. Rows the same.
4. 6 chain, join to previous row; repeat.
5. 7 chain, join to previous row; repeat.
6. 8 chain, join to previous row; repeat.
7. The last row, make 5 ch, join to the lace braid as shown in illustration, then 5 ch and join to previous row; repeat until the outside braid is all fastened to center; each row must have 12 of the chain loops, then it is just right to fasten to the 12 ovals in braid; be careful not to crochet loose; if you have followed directions it will just fill centre of lace; if it is too large you have made it too loose. Press with a warm iron, or a cold one will do if left on a short time. It takes 12 of these pieces, one for each corner and two between. Fasten the sides together; this will leave two scallops for outside and two to lay on handkerchief. Cut a piece of handkerchief linen nine and one-half inches square; lay the border on after they are all fastened together; with fine linen floss buttonhole the scallops that lay on the handkerchief, taking stitches through the linen; afterwards very carefully cut away the linen that is under the lace work.

Almost every housewife has bits of silk laid away which can be utilized for little except blocks for a quilt. Perhaps it may be thought that there is not a sufficient quantity to make it worth while to begin, but it is a matter of surprise how far these pieces will go, and as the work is usually taken up at odd times, the supply may be added to quite materially as the work advances. By the method of making which I shall describe, and which is a new departure in quilt making, the work takes on an added fascination from the fact that when all the blocks are pieced and set together the quilt is entirely done, even to wadding and lining, and is ready for use. Nor is the advantage in making all; the finished quilt is by far the handsomest of any which we have seen. Each block is cut in the shape of a square, five inches being a good size. If any of the silk pieces are not large enough to cut the entire block they may be pieced diagonally across from one corner to another. After the block is cut fold it into a triangle; if it has been pieced fold it along the seam thus made. The next step is to sew it along the diagonal edge and one of the straight edges; then stuff it as full of cotton as you wish, making it puff out well, and close the remaining side. This makes one completed block. The remainder are made in exactly the same way. If you have much black silk, make half your blocks of that, and if you lack variety in the remaining silks, color a part of them with Diamond dyes. Put the blocks together in squares by sewing two together along the bias edges, using one black and one contrasting color in each, or if you do not have much black, put a light and a dark shade together. The squares are to be joined next, using as many as are necessary to make the desired size. A feather-stitching of Asiatic floss may be worked between the blocks and around the edge, if you wish the quilt to be especially handsome. When finished it is practically alike on both sides, and being so deeply puffed, looks as though filled with down and quilted. This method of making the quilt may be employed



ROUND SILK PURSE.

with simpler material than silk, and will be found much prettier than when made in the ordinary way. A very dainty quilt of this style, the origin of whose cover would never have been guessed, was made from thin flour sacks. These when washed were almost like cheesecloth. They were colored a delicate shade of blue with Diamond dyes, and then made up into blocks as described. The outer edge was feather stitched with Asiatic floss of the same delicate tint. No more attractive quilt for the baby's crib can be made than one of this style, using a smaller pattern for the blocks, and such an one will be simple to experiment upon if you wish to try the effect of the new method of making before attempting one of the ordinary size.

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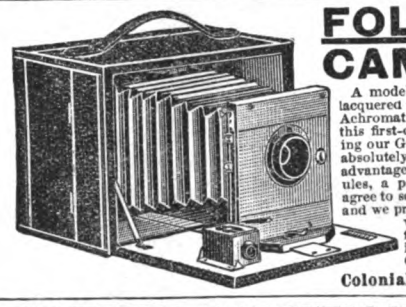
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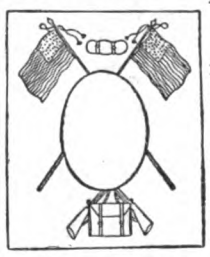
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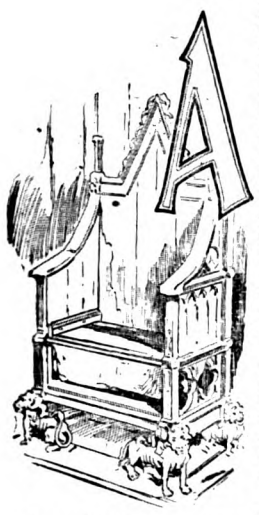
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THE CORONATION CHAIR.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



REIGN like that of Queen Victoria's of over sixty years, has relegated the coronation chair of England to so little use that one may well be pardoned for forgetting that such a piece of royal furniture exists. King Edward's chair, as it is often called, is at least six hundred years old.

The last time the chair was used was at the fiftieth anniversary of Queen Victoria's accession to the throne. It was then, as has been the custom at every coronation for six hundred years, placed before the altar in Westminster Abbey and her Majesty sat in it. This is the place where all the sovereigns of England, for six centuries, have taken the solemn oath of office. On this occasion there was thrown over the chair a magnificent covering of cloth of gold and ermine, but that the people assembled to witness the ceremony might be sure it was the real coronation chair, and not a modern substitute, one corner of the covering was thrown back so as to leave a portion of the rudely carved and time-eaten old chair exposed to view.

Between its rare appearances on royal occasions the coronation chair sits quietly just behind the elaborately carved old stone screen behind the altar. This brings it within the shrine of Edward the Confessor, where it divides interest with the massive tomb of the latter, the battered sides of which show alike the reverence with which it has been held for years and the desire which visitors have had to carry away some part of it as a relic. The coronation chairs, for there are two of them, stand behind a stout iron rail. Visitors are not now allowed to touch them, although it was not so very long ago that any one could obtain the privilege of sitting down in them at sixpence each. The second chair was made at the time of the dual coronation of William and Mary, and was made as nearly as possible an exact copy of the original chair except that the seat is about four inches higher. Mary, as the nearest of blood to the throne, was naturally assigned the original coronation chair. She was a large woman, quite a little taller than her husband. That the latter might not look ridiculously small, by contrast, as they sat side by side during the ceremony, his chair was built in this way to bring him up on a level with his august spouse. Another curious shift made necessary by this same inequality in size is shown in St. Islip's Chapel, in the Abbey, where the famous wax effigies of so many of the English sovereigns are preserved. William and Mary stand side by side, here, and the king stands upon a little platform about five inches high, to increase his stature.

The original coronation chair was made by order of Edward I. in 1297. Since then every sovereign of England has been crowned in it, and it has never been taken out of the Abbey but once. That was when Cromwell was installed in it as Lord Protector, at Westminster Hall. The chair is of oak, large and heavy. Originally it was elaborately painted and adorned with false jewels, but all this trimming has long ago disappeared except for gilding on the lions which form the feet, and it is now simply a very much battered old oak chair.

It is no light task to move the coronation chair around to the front of the altar, when it is to be used, for the old relic weighs several hundred pounds. This is owing to the fact that fastened just beneath the seat is the famous "Stone of Scone," upon which the old time kings of Scotland were crowned. This stone is 26 inches long, 16 wide, and 11 thick. It is fastened by iron clamps beneath the seat so that the sovereign who sits in the chair sits on the stone also. If the old Scotch traditions could be believed this stone is something still more wonderful, nothing less, in fact, than the one on which Jacob rested his head at Bethel. The tradition said that Jacob's sons carried the stone to Egypt, from where it went to Spain with King Gathelos, son of Cerops, the builder of Athens. Even the imagination of a Scotchman, though, is not equal to accounting for all the time, and they simply say, next, of it, that the stone appeared in Ireland about 700 B. C. brought there by the Spanish king's son Simon Brech, at the time of his invasion of Ireland. There it was placed upon the sacred hill of Tara, and called Lia-Fail, the "fatal" stone, or "stone of destiny", because when the Irish kings were seated upon it for coronation it groaned aloud if the candidate was of royal race, but remained silent if he was a pretender. In 330 B. C., Fergus who was a Prince of Ireland and founded a monarchy in Scotland, carried the stone with him to that country. In 850 A. D. King Kenneth finally deposited it in the Monastery of Scone. There it became for centuries a source of veneration to the Scots, and their kings down to John Balliol were crowned upon it. They believed that so long as it remained in the country they would not be hopelessly conquered, and it was partly to discourage them, on account of this belief, that Edward I. when he overran Scotland, took the stone back with him to England. Since the two monarchies finally became one by the accession of James of Scotland to the throne of both, there has seemed to be a peculiar fitness in having the sovereigns of both countries crowned upon the stone, and in the chair. The romantic Scotch and English history of the stone is undoubted. So far as the earlier traditions are concerned the sad truth must be confessed that the relic is unmistakably of Scotch sandstone.

One of the most interesting things about the coronation chair, although one which few tourists ever see, now that the chair sits behind the rail, is an inscription cut in rude school boy letters upon the seat. The letters are at least an inch in height, and look like those carved upon the top of a desk at school. The inscription reads, "P. Abbott slept here, Jan. 3d. 1801." P. Abbott, it seems, was a Westminster School boy. There is a boarding school for boys run in connection with the Abbey, and has been for several centuries. This is supported by an endowment left for the purpose all those years ago, and vastly increased as the time has passed. Back at the beginning of this century one of the boys, P. Abbott, made a bet with another boy, that he dare stay in the Abbey all night alone. He watched his chance, hid behind some tomb, and got himself locked in. Then after all he was afraid that if he did not have some proof of his courage the other boy would not believe he had won the wager. So he spent the hours of the night, lighted by the lamp hung over the shrine of Edward the Confessor, carving his name and the history of the night, upon the coronation chair. All this is one of the well authenticated traditions of the Abbey, and there seems to be no reason to doubt its truth, especially as the proof is on the chair, but ever since I saw the audacious inscription I have wished that the tradition had told us what was the punishment meted out for the irreverence, or whether it was not discovered until long years after the boy had left the school.

MAINE'S BIRCH TREES.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



LARGE part of the wealth of Maine lies in her forests. Her pine lumber is known the world over and her winter lumber camps, her log drives and her sawmills furnish employment to thousands of men. When the paper mills began to build big sulphite mills in the Maine woods the price of spruce timber lands was doubled and in some cases trebled. Next in demand to spruce trees is the white birch, which is sawed into bars and shipped to Scotland to be made into thread spools. Nearly all the thread factories in the United States and more than half of those of Great Britain obtain their spools from Maine.

The story of the appearance in Maine of birch trees in any quantity is as follows—as told by one of the old settlers in that state: In the year in which Maine became a state, some French Canadians crossed the border between that state and Canada and settled on state lands in the woods near the Penobscot river, and defied all efforts to eject them. After five years of struggle with them the land office in Augusta, Maine, despatched two special constables to the disputed territory with orders to make a clean job of evicting the squatters. The constables were zealous, not to say spiteful men, and did their duty all too well. Not content with turning out the inhabitants of the little settlement and destroying their crops, they set fire to their dwellings and outhouses and did not leave the place until all were reduced to ashes.

But their satisfaction in the thoroughness of their work was short-lived and the evicted people thought themselves well revenged when flames were discovered bursting from the surrounding forest, the fire having caught from sparks from the ruined settlement. In a few hours the largest forest fire ever known in Maine was sweeping northward and doing incalculable damage to the lumber interests of the state. Ten million dollars' worth of pine and many square miles of hackmatack forests were burned, and the fire also ate ten feet deep into the accumulations of peat beneath the forests. It even crossed the line into New Brunswick, and did tremendous damage to life and property there.

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After the fire had burned itself out and the land had been given time to absorb the alkali of the ashes, about nine thousand square miles of the burned over district became covered with wild cherry and birch growth. The birches, aided by the "black knot," which was imported from Europe, gradually choked out the cherry trees and obtained a clear field for their own growth. About fifty million board feet of birch spool bars are now yearly shipped out of Maine and the supply shows no signs of becoming exhausted.

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THE above illustration, engraved from a photograph, shows our new 1900 MODEL FLUSH JOINT ACME PRINCE BICYCLE. Every bicycle will be exactly as shown in illustration, with the exception of the sprockets which come in a variety of patterns, and the handle bars which are furnished in either up or down turn, as desired. The $13.75 1900 Model Acme Jewel also differs from the above only in a variety of patterns of sprocket, and comes with outside joint connections. (Sears, Roebuck & Co. are thoroughly reliable.—Editor.)

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The time for the great political conventions grows near and the spirits of the American people rise accordingly. Our frequent elections may be a disadvantage commercially and financially but the mass of the people like the excitement. It is then that the American patriot feels that he is "It." He may work and vote as Dooley says, at the uniform rate of a dollar and a quarter a day, but he realizes his own value just now.

A movement is being inaugurated looking toward erecting a tablet or monument to Father Ryan, the Poet Priest of the South. He is often spoken of as the poet of the Lost Cause. His "Furl that banner for 'tis weary" was one of the last greetings to the stars and bars. Now that the bitterness of the struggle is only a memory his exquisite verses find admirers both north and south. He had a most remarkable command over musical and exquisite English.

The tardy success of the English in South Africa is leading many people to a critical examination of the fetish of England's greatness as a military and naval power. Strange to say the history of England's wars does not show a great military nation. Her two great generals, the Dukes of Marlborough and of Wellington led England to victory when she had powerful allies, but no single military success can compare with those of France or Germany. Great as a commercial nation—yes. But great when opposed in war by equal strength—history does not prove it.

One of the most hopeful signs of the times is the care and attention given to the defective and delinquent classes of our children. There has been a recent agitation in cities looking towards providing separate courts for children accused of crime. This idea should be followed up to a practical result. Statistics show that after a child has once suffered arrest his downward career is rapid. The necessary and enforced association with older criminals has an evil effect. Those familiar with the statistics of criminality believe that the first step towards saving a child would be made if this matter of separate courts could be established. The Mother's Congress has been asked to consider the matter. It directly concerns every mother in the land for the well being, the chance to live well of her child is directly related to the chance of the poor little outcast of the gutter.

One great mark of the intellectual broadness and tolerance of the age is the anxiety to have free discussion upon any troublesome topic. The great race problem of the South is undoubtedly one of the most serious conditions in our Republic. The best and most helpful discussions upon any topic must come from the people who are familiar with all conditions that affect the matter. The deepest thinkers both North and South believe that the best solution of the race problem must be given through the work of the negro and the white man of the South. A society has recently been formed in Montgomery, Alabama—the heart of the "black belt," for the purpose of holding annual conferences to discuss the race problems of the South, the franchise, the education of the negro, religious work and social order and equality. The meetings will be open to free discussions and interchange of ideas. The formation of the society is a hopeful sign. Its problems are the hardest that the South has to face; they are best understood by those living among them and a free and unprejudiced discussion is the first step towards a solution.

Easter Sunday falls very late this year so that its old name, "The Feast of Flowers", can be realized without the aid of hot house blossoms. Easter has become a day generally observed in all Christian churches. There was a time within the memory of those now living when the observance of Easter was almost entirely limited to the communions of the Roman Catholic church and the Church of England. Now it is universally observed with special music, special services and flowers and song. Many quaint customs may be found in Easter observances. Of the many who eat eggs upon Easter day but few recall the fact that they are performing a symbolic act. The egg is the old time symbol of the resurrection. The origin of the symbolism is lost in antiquity but eggs as a part of the Easter feast were a religious observance. The Russians have many quaint Easter fashions. The passers in the street greet one another with a kiss and the salutation, "Christ is risen," the answer being "He is risen indeed."

Wars and new possessions have proven a fruitful source of enlarging our vocabulary. We speak carelessly of "trekking," of the "veldt," of "kopjies," while Boer and Uitlander are old familiar terms. We have almost forgotten how dear the word "machete" was to the paragrapher little more than a year ago. Congress has before now had to place its official sanctum upon spelling so that real relief was felt when "Porto Rico" was declared correct. The English language has derived its wonderful richness from the ease with which new terms were appropriated and permanently engrafted upon the language. "United States" has that distinguishing mark over English as spoken in the British Isle and Boston. "United States" is more picturesque because it has claimed words from the Indian of the plains, from the immigrants of all nations and from the inventive fancy of its own users. As a result our language has grown so rapidly that the slang of to-day is the serious language of to-morrow. In the same degree it has seized upon much that is new in the localisms, and made them familiar terms during the last year. They now bid fair to become part and parcel of the language.

All fools have some day to distinguish themselves, some fools have all days; but April first by a generous and general adaptation is known as "All fools day." To the children it used to be a day of solid enjoyment. The practical joke must have been the first mark of humor by which man distinguished himself as the only animal that laughs. The practical joke is our most primitive form of fun and it is the practical joke that flourishes on "All fools day." The heated coin or the one that is nailed to the board walk, the sham parcel, the pocket book with a string fastened to it, all these practical pleasantries lie between the rising and setting sun of April first. Then the exquisite wit of the person who could quote certain hoary rhymes in justification of his jokes. "April fool's a coming and you're the biggest fool a running," was an old-time favorite. Woe betide the hapless youngster who would fain prolong its brief twenty-four hours. "April fool's past and you're the biggest fool at last" was the reminder of his lapse. No epithet rankles more than the one of "fool" and yet no other form of human weakness has one whole day out of the year devoted to it. Happy are the fools who are only April fools. Twice happy are those who can realize the fun of being a fool and the real folly of the struggle to be sadly wise.

There are certain men who seem to have a deep sense of responsibility when the indifference and suffrages of their neighbors makes them legislators. One-half of the bills introduced in state and national legislature make one wonder what the average intelligence of a constituency can be that selects such intellectual freaks as its representatives. Occasionally the new legislator takes it upon himself to exploit some bill in reference to woman's dress. By so doing he writes himself so unmistakably a "Miss Nancy" that his influence except as a voting machine is from that moment dead. One always has the feeling that a man who struts and frets his brief hour upon the legislative stage in an attempt to regulate woman's dress, must have made a lamentable failure in attempting to dictate to one woman and so wishes to invoke the power of the law and dictate to the mass of womankind. All this, apropos of the fact that a New York State assemblyman has introduced a bill making it unlawful for any woman to wear a hat pin more than three inches long. A longer pin must come under the category of a concealed weapon and subject its wearer to the punishment for carrying concealed weapons. Talk about the tattling and tattle of a church sewing society! How would the dear man have the women fasten on their hats? A three-inch pin would have no practical use. Only two alternatives are presented—elastic bands fastened under the chin or long bonnet strings. Then just as the women of Chicago are commencing to carry pistols to deprive the sex of the only innocent weapon that they could carry. The next thing will be that some legislator, striving to do a service to future generations or sighing to write his name high on the roll of fame, will introduce a bill prohibiting the use of hair-pins as button-hooks, paper knives, or nail cleaners. The responsibility placed in the hands of our legislators is too great to be trifled with in this manner. When all women vote they will commence to ask their male representatives for pledges that the power given into their hands shall not be used carelessly against any portion of their constituency. Until then women must stand meekly by and see their dearest privileges, their hat-pins and hair-pins, exposed to such attacks as this of the New York legislator. It is really one of the most practical arguments of the year in support of woman's suffrage.

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165	American Liberty March	Cook
101	Ancients Abroad. March—Two Step	Cook
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215	Battle of Waterloo. Descriptive	Anderson
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213	Black Hawk Waltzes	Walsh
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70	Dear Heart, We're Growing Old	Estabrooke
128	Don't drink, my Boy, tonight. Temp.	Hoover
256	Dwelling with the Angels. Chorus.	Turner
50	Easter Eve. Sacred	Gounod
220	Ever Sweet is Thy Memory	Hosfeld
19	'E Dunno Where 'E Are. Comic	Eplett
72	Elaine. Waltz song	Betts
180	Far Away	Bliss
182	Father is Drinking Again. Temperance	
126	Far from the Hearthstone	Messer
152	Flag of Our Country. Patriotic	Matkiot
156	Flag, The. Quartette	Fox
144	Flirting in the Starlight	Delano
8	Flossie. Waltz Song	Cohen
138	For a Dream's Sake	Cowen
36	For the Colors. Patriotic	Wilson
66	For You We are Praying at Home	Estabrooke
166	From our Home the Loved are Going	Percy
202	Give a Kiss to Me	Percy
178	God Bless My Kind Old Mother	Jewell
204	Golden Moon	Ivan
150	Gypsy Countess. Duet	Glover
198	Heart of My Heart	Robinson
184	I Can't Forget the Happy Past	Skelly
74	In Sweet September	Temple
248	In Shadowland	Pinsuti
188	In the Starlight. Duet	Glover
28	Juanita. Ballad	May
242	Kathleen Mavourneen	Crouch
196	Killarney	Balfe
132	Kiss me, but don't say goodbye	Rutledge
130	Kiss that bound my Heart to thine	Keil
164	Larboard Watch. Duet	Williams
146	Listen to the Mocking Bird	Hawthorne
48	Little Boy Blue. Solo or Duet	Estabrooke
154	Little Voices at the Door	Danks
96	Lost Chord, The	Sullivan
40	Love Ever Faithful	Bucalossi
25	Lurline, Do you think of me now?	Estabrooke
234	Margaretta	Balfe
112	Massa's Sleeping in de Churchyard	Keefer
230	Memories of my Mother. Chorus	Allen
30	Mission of a Rose, The. Song	Cowen
52	Mother's Cry, A. (Salvation Army)	Adriance
172	Mother's Welcome at the Door	Estabrooke
222	Musical Dialogue. Duet	Helmund
232	Must the Sweet Tie that binds	Estabrooke
76	My Home by the Old Mill	O'Hagan
110	My Little Lost Irene	Danks
170	My Old Kentucky Home	Foster
216	Oh, Sing Again that Gentle Strain	Dinsmore
228	Old Folks at Home (Swanee Ribber)	Foster
60	Old Glory. National	Woods
102	Old Sexton, The	Russell
104	On the Banks of the Beautiful River	Estabrooke
90	On the Beach. Most beautiful ballad	Robinson
160	Outcast, An. Character Song	Fritz
174	Parted from our Dear Ones	Keller
254	Picture of My Mother, The	Skelly
148	Poor Girl didn't know. Comic.	Cooke
56	Precious Treasure. Song and Dance	Weiler
136	Request. Sacred	Grainger
208	Rocked in the Cradle of the Deep	Knight
142	Rosemonde	Chaminade
80	See Those Living Pictures	Guth
224	Shall I Ever See Mother's Face Again?	Adriance
194	She Sleeps among the Daisies	Dinsmore
124	Softly shine the Stars of Evening	Dinsmore
210	Son's Return, The	Fritz
120	Storm at Sea. Descriptive	Hullah
10	Sweetest Song, The	Denza
32	Sweet Long Ago, The	Estabrooke
46	That Word was Hope. Waltz song	Nutting
118	There's a Rainbow in the Clouds	Danks
206	There's Sure to be a Way	Delano
158	Thinking of Home and Mother	Cohen
116	'Tis True, Dear Heart, We're Fading	Estabrooke
108	Tread softly the Angels are calling	Turner
38	True to the Last	Adams
64	Vicar of Bray, The. Old English Song	
62	Your Mother's Love for You	Koppi
252	Warrior Bold	Adams
84	What are the Wild Waves Saying? Duet	Glover
58	When the Roses are Blooming Again	Skelly
86	When Winter Days Have Gone	Trayne
186	Whistling Wife, The. Comic	Randall
212	Why am I ever Watching	deLasaide
218	Why do Summer Roses Fade	Barker

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BEETHOVEN, THE COMPOSER.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.

King of symphony composers, Beethoven is known to musical people by many works, but his most famous is the Ninth Symphony, which ranks in that line of composition with the same great lead that Handel's Hallelujah chorus has in the music of the oratorio. At the time this was written a symphony was not nine parts as now but anything where the composition was in unison.

Louis Van Beethoven was born at Bonn, Germany, on December 17, 1770, and at this beautiful town on the river Rhine spent his youth and attained his education. His father was a musician of fair capability, but enormous aspiration for musical fame. He conceived the idea that the boy should be educated for a master of music; but young Beethoven showed neither aptitude nor inclination for this end. Many a time the good German father was obliged to beat the son before he could force him to take his seat at the piano.

Beethoven in after years said that as long as it was held before him as a task he felt only aversion for music, but when allowed to look upon it as recreation, without being forced to it by friends, he began to love it. He then became absorbed in it. He began early in life to improvise and soon after to compose. It was while filled with the first success and youthful ambition that he suddenly became deaf, and ever after remained so. When we think what an affliction this was, it seems scarcely credible that the wonders in his composition were performed after he had become permanently deaf and even when he could neither hear the execution itself nor the thunders of tumultuous applause which followed.

His affliction had a peculiar effect upon him and in manner he was esteemed by all, but the few who were intimate with him, as proud and cold, and for years he was as deaf to the desires of society as he was physically deaf to sweet sounds of his own music, holding himself aloof for years from social gatherings. But, in the meantime, he was absorbed in composition and a delighted world of art welcomed with rare enthusiasm piece after piece of his ever glorious work.

His habits were peculiar and it is told that, as he walked with his pupils in the fields, he would mutter and make strange sounds and would break out with some phrase like this: "A theme has just occurred to me for the last allegro to my new sonata."

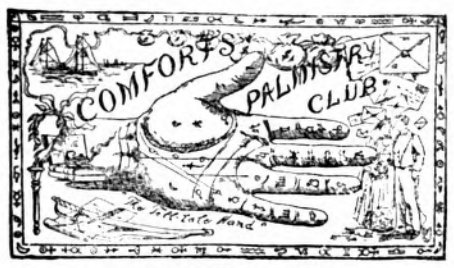
With this he would rush violently home followed by the pupils. Without removing coat or hat he would take seat at the piano, and forgetting pupils and everything, would pour out the new made melody until satisfactory to himself. He never married but a brother left him a son to rear. Beethoven took the little fellow home and became passionately devoted to him. As the young man grew up he illy requited the generosity of his guardian, and became wildly dissolute. His evil career made Beethoven's last days mournful in the extreme.

On the afternoon of March 26, 1827, Beethoven, then 57 years old, was seized with an alarming and mortal faintness. Every aid was extended without avail. In the evening amid the crashing of thunder and the vivid play of the lightning of an untimely and unnatural storm, the great composer sank peacefully to sleep never again to waken.

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CONDITIONS.

To have one's hands read in this department, by Digitus, one of the finest living palmists, it is necessary to observe the following conditions:

Impressions of both hands must be sent, fully postpaid and having the name, address and nom de plume of the sender enclosed in the package also.

The package must in every instance be accompanied by the names and addresses of eight new subscribers at twenty-five cents each, the whole amount, $2.00 being remitted, with the package, addressed to COMFORT PALMISTRY CLUB, Augusta, Maine.

No notice will be taken of impressions and requests for readings unless the sender has fully complied with the above conditions.

To take impressions, first hold two large pieces of blank paper over a candle or similar flame, until they are heavily coated with the smoke. Then lay these pieces down, smoke side uppermost on a pad of cotton. Now place the two hands, palms downward, one on each sheet of paper, pressing firmly and steadily down, but taking care not to move the hand. Keep them so for one minute and lift carefully, so as not to disturb the impression. Have ready some fixatif, which can be bought at a drug store or an art store or made with gum arabic and water in an atomizer. Spray this over the impressions before they are moved and allow them to dry. Then they are ready to send.

Smoked paper impressions are the best. But if it is desired to send a plaster cast, take plaster of Paris and dissolve in water to the consistency of thick cream. Pour this into a large shallow dish and when it is hardening place the hand, well-greased, palm downward, in the plaster, pressing downward. Several minutes will be required to get this impression and great care must be taken in removing the hand, not to break the plaster. Casts are exceedingly difficult to send without breaking and should be very carefully packed in a box with the name of the sender written on it. Putty is sometimes successfully used in place of plaster. A good photograph if sufficiently well taken to bring out all the lines, can also be read, although in all cases the smoked paper is the best, if properly treated with fixatif.

Bear in Mind that all the above conditions must be observed.

Also, that letters not complying with them will go into the waste-basket. Readings cannot appear for several months after impressions are sent.

THERE are a number of questions to be answered this month and as readers say they enjoy the answering of the questions even more than the reading of the hands, I shall try to answer a few in each number.

What does it mean to have a hand covered with hair, asks one member of the Palmistry Club. A hand, the back of which is very hairy shows inconstancy, while a perfectly hairless and smooth hand denotes folly and presumption. A hairy hand on a woman invariably denotes cruelty. A slight hairiness gives prudence and a love of luxury. According to an old Italian palmist hair on the thumb denotes ingenuity; on all the phalanges of the fingers a quick temper and choleric disposition.

Another member wants to know if the color of the hands makes any difference. It does a great deal. If the hands are always white and never change color except very slightly under the influences of heat or cold, they denote a cold, selfish disposition, self conceit and a lack of sympathy with others. The same old Italian says these rules do not hold good with soldiers, servants and working people, as their occupations would naturally change the color of the hands; but in the case of women and men, too, who do not work much with their hands and who take good care of them the following rules may be safely relied upon:

Redness of the skin denotes a hopeful temperament, yellowness denotes a bilious disposition, blackness indicates melancholy and pallor a phlegmatic spirit. Paleness also betrays effeminacy and a dark tint is always preferable to that. The best color for hands is a wholesome rosiness which betokens a bright and a lovable disposition.

Another correspondent wants to know what is the best shape and size for a palm. The palm should be naturally proportioned to the rest of the hand, that is the thumb and fingers; it should be about half the length of the hand and neither too wide nor too narrow. If the palm is thin, skinny and narrow it indicates great timidity and narrowness and intellect somewhat under the average. It also shows a lack of moral force and energy. A deep hollow palm is always a bad sign, showing money losses, misfortune and danger of failure in enterprises. It is evident, therefore, that the palm should be in proportion with the fingers, that it should be firm without being hard and elastic without approaching to flabbiness. This sort of palm indicates an evenly balanced mind, ready to accept impressions, intelligent and capable of judging for itself. But if the qualities just mentioned are too strongly developed the result will be overconfidence, selfishness and sensuality. Have you never shaken hands with a person whose grasp seemed to be like iron and in whose palm there was no more elasticity than in a stone? In such a case you may depend upon it that the person has brutal instincts, and a low grade of intelligence.



CARTER H. HARRISON.

The mounts of the hand have a great deal to do with the indication of character. Someone asks what is the leading mount? I mean by the leading mount, whichever one is most prominent in the hand I am reading. Sometimes there is no one mount more prominent than others and sometimes two or more are equally developed. In fact, it is seldom that a subject has only one mount developed, but it is always the case that where one mount is developed more than the others the characteristics of that mount will prevail over all others. If the subject has no particular mount prominent, that is if they are about equal in his hand, you will find a singular regularity of mind and harmony of existence. If on the contrary, you find that the mounts are none of them well developed, you will find that the subject is either lacking in natural abilities, or that he has never had any opportunity of developing any characteristics.

One of our members asks what the lines on the mounts mean. One line on a mount uncrossed by others is always a fortunate sign. If there are two lines the good fortune is lessened, especially if they are crossed; three lines, even, straight and parallel are a good sign, but if they are crooked or crossed in the least, they bring misfortune. If no one mount is developed over the other, the one which has most lines upon it may be considered the leading mount. Cross lines on a mount are always obstacles and seriously interfere with the progress of the main lines at these points. If, however, the ascending line is deeper than the cross lines, the evil indications of the cross lines will be destroyed.

The Mount of Jupiter is one of the best in the hand. If it is absent and there is a hollow under the forefinger instead the subject will be irreligious, undignified and vulgar. It is exceedingly rare however that one finds an utter lack of this mount. On the other hand, if the mount is excessively developed it indicates an arrogant, tyrannical disposition with a love of display. Such subjects will be vindictive, fond of pleasure and will spare nothing to attain their own private ends. A reasonable development of the Mount of Jupiter would give tendency toward religion, a love of nature, a vivacious disposition, high sense of honor and worthy ambitions. Public entertainers of all sorts have this mount well developed. Such subjects are self confident, polite and somewhat impetuous; they are usually well built and handsome and as a rule marry early. A cross on this mount denotes a happy marriage and a star when found in addition to the cross indicates a brilliant and advantageous alliance. Many confused lines on the mount betray a constant struggle for greatness and if these confused lines are crossed and badly mixed up they indicate unchastity. A square on Jupiter is a good sign indicating success brought about by the qualities indicated by the mount. A spot indicates a fall from some high position, while a triangle on this mount denotes diplomatic ability.

If the Mount of Jupiter is well developed with the Mount of Apollo also well developed, it indicates good fortune and wealth; if it is combined with a good Mount of Mercury, there is a love of exact science and philosophy. Such subjects make successful doctors, but if this combination comes in a hand otherwise bad it gives charlatanry, immorality and fanaticism. A combination of the Mounts of Jupiter and the Moon makes a subject honorable, placid and just. If the Jupiter and Venus mounts are both well developed it gives a sociable and generous disposition of the hand otherwise good, but in a bad hand it brings effeminacy, caprice and a love of low pleasures.

Another writer wants to know what proportion of gum arabic and water must be used to make fixatif. It is hardly worth while to try to make it at home. A half ounce of gum arabic dissolved in a tea cup full of boiling water and allowed to cool, will do if the gum arabic is not too strong; if so, it can be diluted. I should advise that the member send to the nearest city rather than doing this for herself.

The only hand which I shall read this month belongs to Carter H. Harrison, Mayor of Chicago. You will notice that this type of hand is one that indicates a man of strong character, somewhat stubborn in the pursuit of what he considers right and utterly lacking in fear of what other people may say of him. He is a very ambitious man and will attain the object of his ambition. You will notice that the life line begins high up on the Mount of Jupiter, which is a sign of ambition realized. He has had some struggles to go through and when he was about thirty or thereabouts, he had some serious obstacles to fight. He has, however, come out triumphantly from them all. At the age of forty-five to fifty, he will have practically the same battle to fight over again as he had at an earlier age. His life line deflects at the age of about fifty and goes over toward the Mount of the Moon in a very peculiar way. This would indicate that the latter part of his life would take an unexpected direction, but that he will not live to be very old. I see one successful and happy marriage. He is inclined to be somewhat romantic in his tastes, although exceedingly practical in his every day life. He has fine ideas of things both in public and private life and will make an excellent servant to the public as long as he lives. He will travel considerably and his last journey will seriously affect his life. He has the qualities necessary to make an excellent public speaker, is fearless and bold in uttering his convictions and has a way of not only convincing but disarming his hearers. I do not know anything about the early circumstances of Mayor Harrison, but I should read from his hand that he was a self-made man and that what property he gets will be by his own efforts. While he will have a comfortable fortune during the latter part of his days, he will never be one of our remarkably rich men. On the whole his is the hand of an upright, honorable, generous and public spirited citizen.

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Prof. S. A. Weltmer, the originator of Weltmerism, brought suit against one Dr. Bishop, living in Nevada, Mo., for making the statement that Weltmerism was fraud, and the case was brought up before that eminent jurist, Judge Graves. The testimonial in this case was most remarkable, as hundreds of men and women, full of gratitude to the author of their restored health traveled thousands of miles to testify on their oath that they had been



cured through Weltmerism. In this trial Weltmerism had thrust upon it the searchlight of not only legal investigations, but physicians throughout the country were called upon the stand to see if they could not prove it a fraud. One of the instructions of the court was as follows: "If you find from all the evidence and facts and circumstances in evidence that Weltmerism was and had been substantially beneficial to the general public, and their methods had substantially produced the results claimed for them, then you should find for the plaintiff." As the jury found for the plaintiff—Weltmer and his co-laborer, Kelly—against the defendant, Dr. Bishop, to the extent of $750 and costs, Weltmerism has been sustained and substantially endorsed as has no other curing power known to man. Had not Prof. Weltmer been absolutely positive that his new science, which is now known throughout the world as Weltmerism been all that he claimed for it, and had he not known that it would absolutely cure all diseases known to man and woman, both by personal application and by the absent treatment, we would not dare to put it to the test which he did. For it is acknowledged that the case just closed was one of the bitterest ever fought, as he had arrayed against him physicians of the old school, and also that class of people who always fight a new discovery in the field of science. And the glorious victory won by him, for his method, is such an absolute proof that it is efficacious and that it has at last placed the curing of disease into the domain of an exact science that we must now accept Weltmerism as the curing power of the future. Is it not grand that just as the waning nineteenth century is about to bid farewell and we can just catch a glimpse of the approaching twentieth century, that we have placed before us a method whereby all diseases can be cured and we need no longer fear that we will be drugged to death by medicines or cut to pieces by the surgeon's knife? For this grand discovery eliminates all this danger and unfurls a banner whereupon is written in glowing letters, "Medicine a thing of the past." The testimonials that were brought into court showed that more than 53,000 people had been treated by the absent method, and out of this enormous number it was shown that only twelve had not been cured. This is indeed a remarkable record. For our own satisfaction we have had Prof. Kelly, the co-laborer of Prof. Weltmer, send us a few testimonials, which we take pleasure in publishing here:

T. T. Rodes, of Paris, Mo., the Prosecuting Attorney of Monroe County, suffered for years with Sciatic Rheumatism. Tried everything without benefit. Was instantly cured through Prof. Weltmer's Absent Treatment. Mrs. C. R. Graham, of Boise City, Iowa, was afflicted for nine years with rheumatism; she could not walk without crutches or lift her hand to her head; she paid out $3000 with doctors before coming to Nevada. She now proclaims herself cured and a happy woman, through Weltmerism. Mrs. D. H. Allen, of Aurora Springs, Mo., was in a hopeless condition, as she suffered from consumption in its worst form. She could not sleep without the aid of morphine. Tried everything without relief. Fully restored by Prof. Weltmer's Absent Treatment. D. E. Alford, of Rubens, Jewell Co., Kan., suffered for three years with Kidney and Stomach troubles; tried the best medical authorities, but was told that his case was hopeless. Took Prof. Weltmer's Absent Treatment and in three days was cured.

Mrs. Jennie L. Lynch, Lakeview, Mo., was for two years afflicted with ulceration of the womb, heart and stomach troubles and general debility; was reduced to a mere skeleton. After taking gallons of obnoxious medicines, without relief, she tried the Weltmer Absent Treatment. In less than thirty days she was entirely relieved and gained fifteen pounds.

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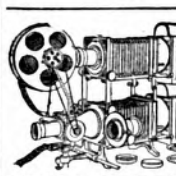
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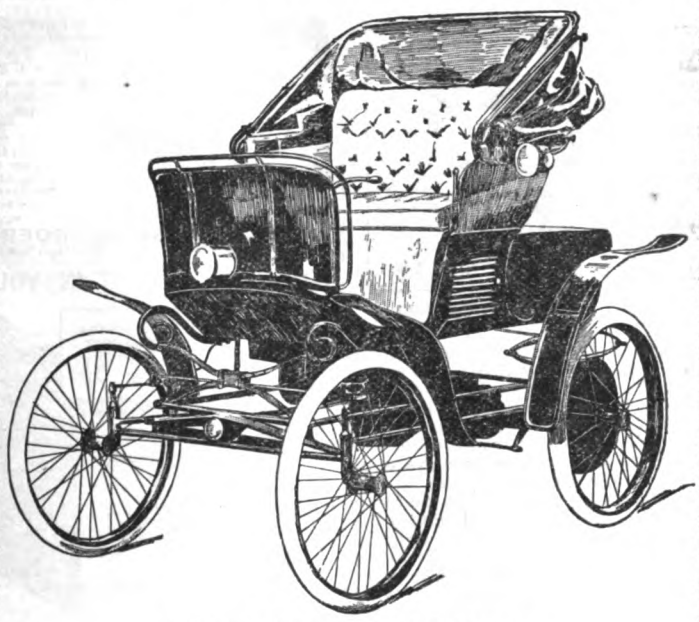


BY EVERETT G. WHEELMAN.

COASTER brake, or "free wheel" devices, as they are called in England, are so popular, interesting and mysterious that a plain, simple description of them by an expert, devoid of technical terms, such as here follows, will not be amiss. The mechanism of a coaster brake device is all contained in the rear hub, from which it is operated by different and varying pressures communicated to the mechanism through the medium of the rear sprocket, front sprocket, chain, cranks and pedals. In the rear hub is contained a clutch operating upon five or six rollers or balls, which roll into place in separate grooves, these grooves being tapered and larger at one end than the other. When a forward pressure is applied to the pedal the balls run up into the small ends of the grooves and lock the clutch so that the sprocket and hub revolve as one. When it is desired to coast, a slight pressure is put upon the pedals when one pedal is at its highest point and the other is at its lowest point, and the balls, or rollers, then drop back to the large ends of the grooves, so that the hub revolves with the wheel, but the sprockets, chain, cranks and pedals remain stationary. To apply the brake a firm pressure, called back pedaling is applied to the pedals, which communicates this pressure through the lower part of the chain to the rear sprocket, which then wedges or jams a disk against a drum containing a spring or other device against the hub shell and effectually stops the rear wheel from revolving. A slight pressure forward releases this jam and the wheel rolls along as before.

Wheelmen will recall the spring saddle which was put forth by Mr. Garford in 1891. This saddle gave way in the following year to a less complicated arrangement. With the year 1893 came the pneumatic tire, withdrawing the necessity of the large serpentine and flexible springs. By successive and radical improvements the saddle was brought to something approaching its present shape. Subsequent changes made in turn, the soft saddle and the hard, or with the inner wooden piece, were mere side issues that operated chiefly in bringing the saddle to its present state of perfection. Now riders can find themselves suited in all directions. Mr. Garford says that the saddle is a point of the wheel's makeup practically untouched by style and fad and says that as far as 1900 models are concerned the standard types will fully satisfy the public.

When it began to be seen that the coaster brake would be one of the chief innovations for 1900, there arose much questioning as to whether or not it would be possible for it to be applied to chainless wheels. This has been done successfully, and the first opportunity for the public to view a chainless wheel fitted with such a device has been afforded by the show. The entire mechanism by which the pedals are made "free" so that the feet may remain on them while the wheels revolve, is fitted on the rear hub. The application of the brake is made by back pedalling, as in chain wheels, but the braking on the bevel gear wheels is not the result of compression on a ring of spring steel within the hub attachment, as in the case of the chain machines. In the new application the left hand side of the rear hub is connected with a rod, that is fulcrumed on a short arm lever at the rear stays, and this lever forces a metal spoon against the rear tire when the back pedalling pressure is applied.



ONE OF THE LATEST AUTOMOBILES.

The old time "dandy horse" or "draisine" is certainly an antiquity. Its massive saddle and framework are in strong contrast to the light, clean running, chainless wheel of to-day. The "dandy horse" has neither pedals nor cranks. They were not needed in its day. The rider bestrode the saddle and propelled the wheel by touching his toes to the ground and pushing it along. What he did when ascending a hill is not explained. Some rough models, with saddles so large as to suggest easy chairs, and with cranks attached to the forward wheel are next in line. Next came the "ordinaries", with the high front and the small rear wheel; a "crossbar" safety, some 40-pound diamond frames and models of the chain wheels which three or four years ago were considered the acme of perfection in cycle construction; and then the modern chainless.

A combination pedal appears this year, which, when fitted with rubbers, seems to have been designed as a rubber pedal only. With rubbers removed, however, it does not appear incomplete, but as if designed as a rat trap pedal. The rubbers, being triangular, are light and interchangeable, but each may be turned to present three separate contact surfaces.

Some of the new models in bicycles are really things of beauty. In finish and in general lines they are really the superior of anything heretofore put on the market. Bicycles are lighter this year than last and the change is a popular one. A saving in some cases of five pounds has been made on the 1899 models, which agents generally have reported as too heavy to please the majority of riders. Bevel geared chainless models are those in which the largest saving in weight has been made. New ideas in cutting the gears have permitted some economy in weight.

Inflating of tires has always been much of an annoyance to many, but the disagreeable and laborious part can be obviated now by the use of the automatic bicycle pump. This machine is small, box-shaped, and weighs less than fifty pounds. It can be placed anywhere, although most convenient when attached to a rack. The mechanism is simple. To operate the pump, it is only necessary to drop a cent in the slot, press the knob, insert the valve, turn the crank and the tire is inflated.

It is stated on good authority that dealers are ordering from ten to twenty samples, where they ordered one or two a year ago. This is the best evidence of the healthful condition of the industry that we can possibly have at this time of the year. With our roads being improved right along the interest in the sport and recreation is bound to increase further. You will see more people on the roads with the opening of the outdoor season than was the case a year ago. The person who has become accustomed to getting out in the air on a bicycle quickly realizes the good that has been done for him mentally and physically, and anybody who says that such a person is going to give up the bicycle simply does not know what he is talking about.

Oil is a most permeative substance, and as a lubricant a very little is better than much. For several years one of the distinctive structural features of a famous wheel made in Boston has been a patented system of self-oiling bearings, consisting of a hollow axle which, stuffed with an oil-saturated wick, constitutes an interior oil chamber, connected by small ducts to the cups. Once oiled through the end of the axle the balls run in a light film of oil through the whole season.

Spokes, though larger, are made much better than formerly, and are much more carefully plated. A concern which manufactures spokes for its own well-known bicycles and for many others says that in all the wheels it sold in New York during 1899 not one defective spoke was returned, the only breaks being due to accidents.

Electric vehicles are called by a dozen different names, while there is a like number of expressions used in connection with the pastime. The motor vehicles are termed autocars, autodoes, autogoes, teuf teufs, automobiles, autobains and other expressive names and terms of indefinite origin. The favorite name for the person who operates the carriage is automobilist, or chaffeur. French terms predominate, for it must be admitted that as a sport automobilism originated in France.

The automobile is all right for him who wants it, but I am satisfied with the bicycle. Nothing pleases me better, nothing does me more good than an hour's ride in the morning before breakfast. A man with a bicycle always seems to feel that he has his best friend with him.

A REMARKABLE VIEW.

One of the most remarkable pictures that has been seen by COMFORT for a long time is a print being sent to publishers by Dr. R. V. Pierce of the World's Dispensary Medical Association, Buffalo, N. Y. The view is of the Invalid's Hotel and Surgical Institute owned by the Association, and before it stand the seven large automobiles which are used by them in the distribution of advertising matter, etc. Nothing could better show the enterprise and reliability of Dr. Pierce than this view. The substantial, large hotel which adjoins and the immense plant and the graceful, modern vehicles speak volumes to the observer. Dr. Pierce's reputation, skill and reliability are world-famous, and no more progressive a practitioner is now in public life. The proprietary remedies he handles are so well known as to be proverbial in the household. COMFORT congratulates the Association upon the high position it holds and Dr. Pierce, especially, on his continued success.



ARCH OF TRIUMPH.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.

From time immemorial there has been the same acclamation and absolutely uncontrolled enthusiasm over a conquerer. And always this has been partially expressed in the erection of an arch for the hero to pass through, dragging his conquests entraine.

After a lapse of eighteen centuries there stands at the present day the arch erected to commemorate the conquest of Jerusalem by Titus—one of the grandest relics of imperial Rome.

When New York City prepared to welcome Admiral Dewey, C. R. Lamb, in collaboration with a number of America's foremost sculptors, planned and erected a *Triumphal Arch* and took for a model this "Arch of Titus".

The Dewey Arch stands across the Avenue, with an approach of colonades which stretch one block in each direction, north and south. Like the Exposition buildings in '93, it is made of "staff"—a skeleton of wood, covered with wire netting, over which is a plaster of Paris coating. In the groups and figures excelsior was used for a foundation.

Surmounting the arch is a group representing, naval victory by J. Q. A. Ward. "Victory" stands in a chariot drawn by sea-horses, with Tritons as couriers. This group was completed in six weeks' time.

Next in merit are the four groups at the base of the Arch. On the north-east is "Call to Arms". The group on the south-east represents sailors in the heat of combat. On the south-west "The Return," in which Admiral Dewey figures prominently. And on the north-west "Peace". On the inside of each of the columns is Martiny's "Victory", duplicate of that which adorns the newel posts in the Congressional Library at Washington. On either side of "Victory" are two Ionic pillars forty-five feet in height and each of these columns bears the name of one of the ships in Admiral Dewey's fleet.

It is unfortunate that such a work of art should have been made of perishable material. Even a very few weeks after completion the changes in atmosphere had noticeably effected it around the base. But as the public are advocating a duplicate in stone, in the course of a very few years New York City will doubtless have an "Arch de Triumph" which will rival that of the Parisians on the Champs-Elysses.

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CURRENT TOPICS IN AMERICAN HISTORY

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



GEN. GEO. B. DAVIS.

ONE of the most interesting events in the American Congress during the past month has been the debate on the Porto Rico tariff, which has been followed very closely by the members of the House and Senate, as well as by the press and people generally. The question is an entirely new one in American politics, and opens a wide field to debaters. At first, by recommendation of the President and the Secretary of War, it seemed that Porto Rico would be adopted as an integral part of the United States with the probability of becoming at some future time a state, meantime being in the position of any United States territory. Under the Constitution, there could be no import or export duty on any commerce between states and territories of the Union.

This proposition immediately gave rise to the question of the cheap labor of Porto Rico brought in direct contact with the higher paid labor in the States, and particularly as to its effect on domestic tobacco, the beet and sugar cane interests of the United States, and other agricultural industries which it was felt would suffer when brought into direct competition with products of the island, cultivated as it is by labor paid at less than one-fourth of what a white man receives in this country. The Ways and Means Committee of the House finally brought in a tariff based on 25 per cent. of the Dingley tariff now existing against other countries. The entire proceeds both of the import and export tax thus imposed would be devoted to the schools and other public institutions of the island itself, and to be kept in a reserve fund for this.

The debate in Congress brought up the question of free trade immediately, and party lines were closely drawn. The debate was interesting, and at times fierce; the chief points being the secession of Hon. C. E. Littlefield of Maine and Representative McCall of Massachusetts from the Republican ranks, and their speeches in favor of the opposition. Mr. Littlefield is a young man just elected from the District formerly represented by the late Nelson Dingley. He is a ready debater, and the contest on this bill indicated that he has as yet not found his match on the floor. It will be remembered that Mr. Littlefield took a prominent part in the Roberts exclusion case, and at that time voted against the settlement of his party. It is a bold thing for any new man in Congress to stand out against party leaders; but Mr. Littlefield is apparently fearless, and consistently opposed the requests of the Republican leaders. After an exciting debate lasting several days, in which at times it was supposed the bill was lost, and at no time it would be carried by more than a majority of five, it passed the House on its final passage by a vote of 172 to 161, five Republicans voting with the minority and four Democratic with the majority. The bill now goes to the Senate where it will be passed with certain modifications, returned to the House for conference, and undoubtedly passed without further debate to be signed by President McKinley.

This tariff act is only for two years, and is based upon 15 per cent. of the Dingley bill. The great point which is carried by it is not the question of tariff or free trade, but as to the future treatment of acquired territory by the United States. Immediately after President McKinley sent special message to Congress relative to all tariff money being put aside for the island. A very large proportion of the people, especially the Democratic party, claim that all acquired territory should become a part of the Union and have the same rights, and that it is unconstitutional to impose any customs tax upon it. On the contrary a very great many Americans believe that these newly acquired islands should be treated as dependencies, while they should be a voting power by a representative of the United States Government appointed by the President. In other words, that they are to be dependencies and colonies the same as is so successfully carried out by the English colonial system, but that they cannot be placed on an equal footing with the rest of the Union or have a representation in Congress. This debate may be looked upon as one of the first engagements of the coming presidential contest.

As the presidential campaign approaches, the movements of the expected candidates are being closely watched. There seems to be no possible doubt that President McKinley will be renominated by acclamation and without the slightest opposition. While he has some opposition, which is partly relative to certain questions, especially so-called imperialism and expansion, there is not enough to make a respectable showing should it come to voting for delegates to the convention. It is not probable that a single member of the forthcoming Republican convention will be in any way opposed to Mr. McKinley. The Democratic party, being out of power, has already placed itself in opposition to about every plank the administration will probably stand upon; but on any of the questions, especially on that of expansion, the Democratic states are apparently quite solid in the ideas advanced under those names.



HON. C. E. LITTLEFIELD.

Mr. Bryan, who was candidate for president in 1896, is now touring the country and talking on the various issues which may be expected in the coming campaign. He denounces trusts, opposes expansion, denies the general prosperity of the country, and again commits himself to the 16 to 1 silver question. There is no candidate for this high office in sight in the Democratic ranks beside Mr. Bryan and there seems to be no probable doubt that he will receive an equally unanimous nomination by the Democrats as will be given President McKinley by the Republicans.

While the heads of the two tickets are practically settled at this early date and apparently with no question, there is much doubt as to who will be selected as candidates for the vice-presidency. On the Republican side it was expected that some New Yorker would be nominated by acclamation, but so many have appeared representing different factions that there has since been general newspaper talk of taking a man from the far West. Hon. Arthur Sewall of Bath, Maine, who was candidate for vice-president with Mr. Bryan has recently returned from Honolulu and come out openly for expansion and for the re-election of President McKinley, which of course removes him from being renominated with Mr. Bryan. This will open the field to numerous aspirants. The Republican national convention is to be held in Philadelphia, June 19th. It is custommary for the administration to hold the earlier convention, but there is considerable agitation in the Democratic ranks for a convention early in May and an attack on the administration all along the line.

Concensus of opinion would indicate that the Republican nomination will go to the State of New York, Governor Roosevelt, Senator Woodruff, Cornelius Bliss, and other prominent New Yorkers having been mentioned to fill this place; but each has antagonists within the State. It is desired by the Republicans to obtain a candidate who will unite all the elements in that party in the Empire State. The most recently spoken of candidate is Gen. Horace Porter, now United States Ambassador to France; besides being a man of the most eminent ability and experience, he has no enemies in his own State. It is probable that he could have the nomination without question, but his personal wishes are against it, and his friends declare that he has expressed himself in the most emphatic terms as being entirely averse to any such position.

On the Democratic side, there is every reason for supposing that there will be a fusion of the Populist and Democratic parties without the mistake which was made in 1886 of the same presidential head with two vice-presidential candidates. Mr. Bryan will receive the nomination by acclamation in both parties, and all indications point to the nomination of Hon. W. Caldwell of Kansas, a distinguished Populist leader, as Mr. Bryan's running mate. The Democratic Convention is to be held in Kansas City, July 4th, and will probably be accompanied with much dramatic display. One of the projects at the present time is to have all the members sign a new Declaration of Independence at noon July 4th, and at the same time nominate Mr. Bryan by acclamation. The new Declaration of Independence is naturally to be anti-imperialistic and in favor of the Filipinos, Cubans and Porto Ricans.



WILLIAM J. BRYAN.

In regard to Porto Rico, there have been frantic appeals for immediate Congressional action on account of the impoverished condition of the island. Brig.-Gen. George B. Davis, the Governor of Porto Rico, declared publicly that he could not overstate the gravity of the industrial paralysis now existing in that island. He said that the only remedy that he could suggest was the opening of American markets for the accumulated surplus of products, and such Congressional legislation as would give confidence to investors and encourage the development of the natural resources. Until this could be done, he saw no way to prevent an increasing number of people to be fed to keep away starvation.

A great deal has been said about the condition of Cuba, and much to the detriment of the Government, which has been circulated in American papers by interested people. The general idea given by these reports is that the Spanish corruption continues under American rule, and that no progress is made in the building up of the island.

While the Spaniards and a few educated Cubans desire annexation to America, the greater part of the population, and especially the colored and half-breeds, are anxious for another revolution. Most careful examination and reports indicate that while the United States made mistakes in many instances, it could only be expected considering the great difference that exists between Spanish and American customs, and the people of Cuba and the United States; but, as a whole, the people should have every reason to be satisfied with the main result of the efforts of the American officials during the past twelve months. Complete chaos and rebellion have given place to good order; all sections of the populace are living in greater tranquility than was ever before known in Cuba; crimes against life and property are less common than in many a community much more civilized; the revenues show a substantial surplus over the expenditures; the industrial life of the island has made such progress as to insure material prosperity in the near future. A looker on says it is only necessary to watch for a moment the look of contentment on the faces of the vast majority of Cubans, and compare their undisguised happiness with the terror-stricken appearance of these people a couple of years ago to realize what good work has been done. It is undoubtedly true that from now to the presidential election all sorts of stories will obtain circulation indicating a complete failure of American affairs in all these dependent islands. Readers should not pay too much attention to newspaper reports of this kind, as they will be circulated in exaggerated form for political purposes, and not as judicial statements.

The situation in Kentucky has developed into a state bordering on civil war. After an exciting campaign, which will be remembered by all readers, the Returning Board of Kentucky decided that Mr. Taylor had been elected Governor by a comparatively small majority. The Kentucky Legislature when it met, having a majority of democrats, promptly passed resolutions declaring that William Goebel, the democratic contestant, was elected. Gov. Taylor called out the troops and surrounded the State House at Frankfort. On the morning of the 30th, as Mr. Goebel was approaching the building, he was shot by some unknown party, and carried to the hotel where his wound was found to be mortal. Notwithstanding his precarious condition, he was sworn in as Governor of the State of Kentucky, and immediately issued proclamations. Mr. Goebel dismissed the Adjutant commanding the State Militia, which is supposed to be composed of partisans of Taylor, and appointed a Democrat. Meanwhile Gov. Taylor issued a proclamation declaring that Kentucky was in a state of insurrection, and adjourning the legislature to meet Feb. 6th in London, a Republican stronghold.



MR. GOEBEL.



GOV. TAYLOR.

Mr. Goebel struggled determinedly against his fate all the week, and finally died; and within an hour J. C. W. Beckham, who had been returned by the Democratic legislative board as elected Lieutenant-Governor, was sworn in as Governor. The following day it was announced that the Democratic seat of government would be established at Louisville. The press of the country very generally upheld the de facto State Government of Gov. Taylor, although his action in adjourning the legislature to London has been criticised as illegal. Notwithstanding the large number of armed people in the streets and the militia stationed in different parts of Frankfort, no armed hostilities have occurred at this writing; the whole case is in the courts for adjudication; but there is continued danger of a state of civil war in the commonwealth.

CLOTHING SALESMEN WANTED



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W21

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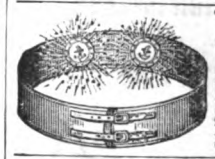
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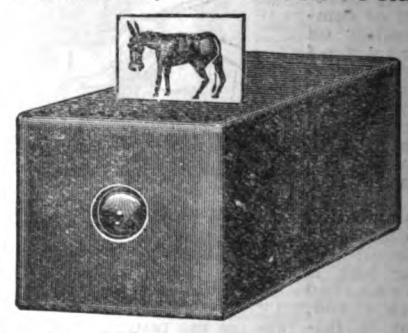


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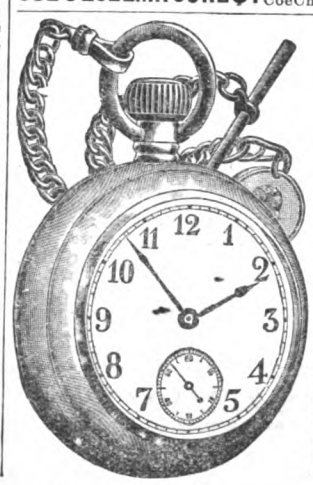


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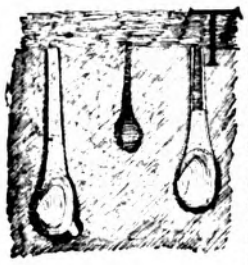
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COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

FARMING THE CLAM.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY RENE BACHE.



THE problem of propagating artificially the long or "soft" clam is seriously engaging the attention of the United States Fish Commission, owing to the alarming diminution of the natural supply. Along the greater part of the New England coast the species has been depleted to such an extent as to be threatened with actual extinction. Extensive areas which only four or five years ago yielded immense numbers of these edible mollusks are now practically barren.

It is a real calamity that has befallen. "The disappearance of a staple food, at once healthful, delicious, and cheap, is a matter of far-reaching importance to the community," writes Dr. G. W. Field. "Such a misfortune is today imminent in Rhode Island. The long clam, formerly so abundant, has been all but exterminated from our shores. The supply necessary to meet the enormous demand of home consumers and of shore resorts is almost entirely derived from the coasts of Long Island and of Maine. Yet we have remaining to us all conditions necessary for obtaining from Narragansett Bay enough clams to supply not only Rhode Island, but all sections of the country whither the mollusks can be profitably transported—provided that the flats are made to produce to their full capacity."

The solution of the problem is simple enough, in the opinion of the fishery experts, who recommend the adoption of a system of clam farming, by which, they say, the yield of former years could not only be restored, but actually made many times as great as it was at its best. Properly speaking, the succulent bivalve is an agricultural product, living and growing in rich tidewater mud. At the same time, it is a very highly organized creature, and the fault is not its own if it has been regarded hitherto as a wild animal. The adoption of proper methods will speedily transform it into a domesticated animal, for which capacity it is singularly well fitted, being of a mild disposition and by habit sedentary.

The Rhode Island Experiment Station recently published a statement to the effect that an acre of good "clam ground" ought to yield five hundred bushels of marketable mollusks annually. According to this authority, a clam farm should consist of several divisions—one of them a preserve for breeders, in which mature bivalves are kept in numbers sufficient to "seed" the rest of the planted space without further attention. The rest of the cultivated tract should be split up into sections, to be dug successively, the arrangement being such that any given area shall be called on for a crop only once in three or four years.

Clam culture, if properly conducted along the shores of the United States, would utilize most profitably immense areas of tidal flats which now are waste places. These mollusks flourish not only on open seacoast, where sufficient protection is offered against the shifting sands, but also in brackish bays and estuaries, even far from the ocean. Indeed, brackish waters are most prolific in clams, having the greatest abundance of the microscopic plants which are the chief food of the mollusks, and every acre of space exposed at low tide in such localities ought to be farmed. The clam is better adapted than the oyster for artificial cultivation, and planting costs nothing—for, if the bottom is suitable, clams cannot be kept out.

Long clams have sexes, some being males and some females. The latter in spring produce immense numbers of eggs, which are discharged into the water and take their chance of being fertilized by contact with the "milt" set afloat by the males. Once fertilized, the egg develops into a young animal which swims about for some days, after which it attaches itself by a slender thread to a piece of seaweed or other convenient support. Some few weeks later it casts itself loose again, and burrows into the sandy mud. A small space occupied by breeding clams will suffice to "seed" a very large area, artificial planting being unnecessary.

The extreme simplicity of the cultural operations lends a special attraction to the business of clam farming. No planting being required, the crop has only to be harvested and the producing areas protected. "Divide the tidal flats along the coast into sections," advises the Rhode Island Agricultural Experiment Station, "and subdivide each of these sections into four divisions, plainly marked by stakes. Only one of the divisions should be dug each year. For example, if the area on the west shore of Narragansett Bay, from Gaspee Point to Conimicut Point be a section, the latter should be marked off into four equal clamming-areas, of which only one would be open the first year, another the second year, and so on in rotation. Thus the mollusks in every division would have three years for growth, undisturbed. As a result, the average yield, after a few seasons, would be upwards of 500 bushels per acre. Such controlling regulations would again permit the valuable flats to produce the food for which they are adapted, instead of exhibiting the melancholy condition of a desert. The effect would be widely felt by the people, for the price of clams today is treble what it would be if proper steps were taken to increase the yield."

Not long ago a very notable experiment in clam farming was made at the mouth of Essex river, in Massachusetts, where are some very extensive flats which formerly yielded vast quantities of the bivalves as a wild crop. Their productiveness having been destroyed by over-digging, these acres of tidal mud were staked off in acre lots and let at $2 a lot per annum for a term of years to anybody who wanted to rent them. Small clams were obtained from elsewhere and planted, about 500 bushels per acre being required for such seeding. Some of the lots soon yielded enormously, and it was proved that the cultivated bivalves, while quite as large as the best ones of natural growth, are worth more by reason of their uniformity in size. They bring $1.75 a barrel to the catchers, while ordinary clams fetch only $1.50. Unfortunately, however, the experiment referred to proved a failure on the whole, chiefly because the people in the Essex river vicinity were too afraid of robbery of their clam farms by neighbors who would reap without having sown.

There was, in fact, a good deal of such pilfering; and besides, some individuals did everything they could do to antagonize the enterprise, fearing least the success of clam culture might glut the market and reduce the price of the mollusks to an unprofitable figure. But enough was ascertained by this imperfect trial to prove that a great and profitable industry can easily be created by proper methods not only in the locality mentioned, but in any other place where tidal flats under favorable conditions are found. The essential preliminary is the making of a law which shall thoroughly protect the clam-planter in his property rights, providing severe punishment for poachers.

It may be mentioned incidentally that the popular supposition regarding the simplicity of a clam's make-up is wholly erroneous, the structure of the animal being very elaborate and complicated. Its nervous system, its digestive machinery, its respiratory, muscular, and reproductive apparatus, are all marvels of completeness and complexity. Some of its anatomical features, indeed, are quite remarkable. For example, it has three brains, which, as well as the ear, are located in its foot, and its intestine passes through its heart.

As already explained, the baby clams, after spending a few weeks at anchor, attached to seaweeds or other convenient objects, cast themselves loose and burrow into the mud. Critical is this period in their life history, myriads of them at this stage falling a prey to fishes and other predatory marine animals, while whole broods fall victims to weather conditions. Escaping such disasters, the infant mollusk buries itself in the bottom by means of its foot, and, with the tip of its siphon extending to the surface of the mud, dwells practically secure from the enemies which beset it during the earlier stages of its existence. The supply of microscopic plants, on which it feeds, being plentiful in the warm shallows, the creature grows rapidly—at the rate of about an inch a year—and in the third year is ready to breed.

If one examines a soft clam freshly captured, there will be found projecting from one end a blackish wrinkled lump, which, on being irritated, quickly withdraws, throwing out at the same time a little stream of water. Put the forbidding-looking creature in a shallow pan of fresh sea-water, and leave it a few hours until it recovers confidence. Then the blackened tube will be found protruded to a length of several inches, and it will be seen that the organ has two openings at the end, beautifully fringed with appendages like little feelers. It really consists of two tubes leading to the body of the clam, and, if you observe the openings closely, you will see a current of water flowing into one of them and another current flowing as steadily out of the other. As the soft clam lies in his burrow, he pushes his tubes up into the sea-water above, and sucks in a stream which bears not only the microscopic particles of organic matter that serve as his food, but also the oxygen which he requires.

The demand for soft clams has long exceeded the supply, and their disappearance does but repeat the old story of reckless destruction of a source of food-supply provided by bountiful Nature. Already the oyster is similarly threatened, alas! But, happily for the clam, it is even better adapted than the oyster for artificial cultivation. Its enemies are fewer, and the chances of failure in planting are smaller.

Long clams are found plentifully as far north as the Arctic Ocean, where seals, walrus, polar bears and foxes feed upon them greedily. Their habitat extends as far south as Cape Hatteras, below which they are scarce. It has been ascertained that, in what may be termed the "anchored" stage of their life, they can be transported for great distances without injury, so that there is no reason why they should not afford a palatable food supply in many parts of the world where up to the present time they have been unknown. This discovery is fortunate, inasmuch as clams are much more delicate than oysters, and hitherto attempts to carry them over long journeys for stocking purposes have usually ended in disaster. They have been successfully introduced within the last few years on the Pacific coast, where, by the way a giant relative of theirs called the "geoduck," with a siphon nearly three feet long is native. The geoduck, however, is not edible.

The red man, long before the days of Columbus, was well acquainted with the virtues of the long clam, which contributed importantly to the aboriginal "clam bake" on festive occasions when the tribes, like the New Englanders of to-day, visited the salt water and prepared with moist seaweed and heated rocks a complete feast of sea-food with green corn and other delicacies. At the present time much "clam bouillon," so called is put up in cans for market, and it is both palatable and digestible, though not to be relied upon too much as food for invalids, inasmuch as it contains no great amount of nutriment.



THE charming quality in the song of the canary is the result of years and years of cultivation. A little town in the Hartz mountains is the center of the world for canaries, and all the best songsters are imported from there. For generations the cobblers thereabouts have inherited the business of raising canaries along with the trade of repairing boots. Every fall a fair is held and prizes of considerable value are given to the man who can produce the best singers, or who has in any way achieved a new variety of note. The stock notes are called the roller, water, flute and bell. To effect the first, a large wooden wheel is kept constantly revolving in the vicinity of the birds, and against the surface a quill is made to press; this gives forth a sound which the birds strive to imitate, which makes a very pleasing note. The water note is not unlike a trill, and the birds are initiated to this by means of a tin pan nailed in the middle of a post firmly planted in the ground. Through a pipe from above water is made to drop into the pan, and the vibrations thus caused are imitated by the birds. The bell note explains itself. To obtain the flute note they rub together two bits of waxed ends held tight in a rude frame work. These birds always retain their beautiful voices and methods; the next generation, removed from this cultivated atmosphere, will not sing so well, and in three or four generations the descendants will simply whistle and screech.

HYPNOTISM



What or whence is this Hypnotism?

Have you ever been Hypnotized? Is it true we can be put in a trance and yet our wills and bodily senses act at the bidding of another? Can you be visibly asleep and at the same time intensely awake? Can we really be made to speak and move correctly though unconscious, to submit our faculties and feelings to all sorts of perversion, to be wise or silly, dumb or eloquent as a hypnotist ordains for us, and yet have no memory of it all when we are freed from the mysterious spell? And if so, what more is there—what is it all good for, anyhow?

These are the perplexing questions that people now put to each other throughout the land. I have just issued a wonderful book covering the whole subject and am giving it away FREE to all who write me for a copy. I have pledged myself that none need be ignorant on the facts of this science, and I shall even tell you more than the given questions would cover.

I shall show you that this Hypnotism is the most wonderful force in nature—that it is as mighty in the realm of mind as electricity in the world of matter. I shall prove to you that it conquers all pain and cures all diseases; that it is an agency of reform and a detective in the path of crime; that it assists education, surgery and medicine; that it will correct the vicious and uplift the suffering or degraded, that it brings health and success to those who use it and enables them to extend the same and other blessings of mind and body to all who hold a place in their hearts. Above all else I shall fully prove to you that it is no fake, no fraud, no phantasy, but a clean-cut, orderly science which is very easy to learn and which will serve its humblest adherent as thoroughly as the most learned or lofty.

WHAT IS HYPNOTISM?

I may describe Hypnotism as a trance-like sleep, or **spell,** into which one person casts another by a very simple process. In this state the operator, or hypnotist, has supreme control over the mind and sensations of his subject. The latter, for the time being, has no will but that of the hypnotist, to whom he is truly as clay in the hands of the potter. At a word or sign he will perform most surprising feats, mental or physical, which he could not even attempt in the waking state. He can only see or hear, speak or act, precisely as the hypnotist wills him, and he so keeps on incessantly until the same imperious will directs a change or withdraws the spell.

WONDERS OF HYPNOTISM.

It may be judged that from these conditions the most startling phenomena will result. I regret I can only allude to them in this limited space. I have set forth very many of them in my book and yet description utterly fails me. Just think of it. One mind is passive, pliant and slavishly docile, though intensified in all its faculties and having new ones that can range afar. The other mind dominates these powers, from least to greatest, more completely than any despot rules his trembling serfs.

USES OF HYPNOTISM.

To know the science of Hypnotism enables you to do boundless good for yourself and others. The student finds it a passport to fascinating realms of science. It is an endless recreation to persons of means and leisure. It enlarges the opportunities of generous souls. It is a friend to the friendless, a physician to the afflicted and a comfort to the distressed or sorrow-stricken. It is a sure ministry to all of success and independence, reputation, health and happiness. It is also for those who desire it a dignified and money-making profession. These and numerous others are benefits I show the way to in my illustrated FREE BOOK. If you wish to realize them fully just send for a copy and read it.

HYPNOTISM IN DISEASE.

Beyond all doubt Hypnotism is destined to be **the healing science of the future.** Never was known the anodyne that could equal it in banishing pain. Never was known the specific, or even the healing system, that could so master and expel the various forms of disease. Already the most eminent physicians employ it in their practice and there is a growing legion of specialists who have totally discarded their drugs in its behalf. As an unfailing opiate for the sleepless and a gentle but powerful mode of curative treatment, it is a blessing to every suffering mortal in existence.

HYPNOTISM FOR AMUSEMENT.

As a means of entertainment for small or large audiences Hypnotism stands today without an equal. It appeals to the natural love of the marvelous and yet is an endless source of the most hilarious fun. There is simply no limit to the comical situations and side-splitting absurdities that a hypnotist may create with one or more subjects. As an accomplishment in private circles it is therefore invaluable. As a means of entertaining audiences it beats the minstrel show and comic opera joined together—and my book shows fully how it can thus be made a source of liberal income as well as harmless enjoyment.

YOU CAN LEARN HYPNOTISM.

For all that, you can easily become a hypnotist. It is not a special or exclusive gift. It is a very simple science for which the capacity is inherent in us all. It is easier to learn how to hypnotize than to learn how to waltz or swim. All who know how to read can master hypnotic powers. Whoever once masters them has the wide world of humanity for their profitable use. The study is neither deep nor difficult. The simplest and most ordinary intelligence can grasp it. The most lofty or profound will be equally charmed by it. Why do you not learn it? There is absolutely nothing to hinder. My illustrated mammoth book, the "Key to the Mysteries of Hypnotism," is entirely at your service just for the asking. You have heard of and admired these wondrous powers; why not master them and use them for your own welfare and happiness? Why not learn them even if only for the good you can do to others? Why not study and exercise them as a money-making profession? I have won fame and fortune by them—so have many others, and so may you.

HOW TO LEARN HYPNOTISM.

The process is very simple. The labor is merely trifling. You know how to read else you would not be reading these lines. And I here assure you positively that if you barely know how to read you can soon be a hypnotist equal to the best. I know whereof I speak on all this subject. I am conceded to be the leading hypnotist of this continent. I have given up my life to the study of this science and to the work of teaching it to others. It is my chosen and cherished pursuit and I have no greater joy on earth than to see others win fame and celebrity by it as I have done. It can never disappoint anybody who takes it up with a willing heart. It has all and much more than the powers I have claimed for it. It is a healer of disease. It is a winner of friendship and regard. It is an all potent spell of love. It is a weapon of the ambitious and a shield of the inoffensive. It is a miracle-working power for the good of individuals, families and society. It is accessible to old or young of either sex and it is my proud privilege to make its

SECRETS FREE TO ALL!

I have laid low the barriers that once hemmed it in. I have given to the multitude what was jealously guarded by the few. I have made Hypnotism, the most exalted of all sciences, a truly popular study. I have stripped it of theories and technicalities and put it in a garb of homely speech. Thus it can be understood and learned by all and its amazing performances tried by the test of practice. It is no longer a mere problem for solitary scientists. It is an art, a power and an influence among the people. It is a fascination to its very adepts. It is the most stupendous fact of modern life in so far as it places the humblest on a par with the most privileged in the hidden fields of human thought, in the struggle for fortune, in the quest of social distinction, in the attainment of sound health, in the sure pursuit of success and in the sunshine of home, peace, unison and love. So much and yet more is Hypnotism to us now while I may honestly claim that this is what I have done by the publication of my great illustrated work, my "Key to the Mysteries of Hypnotism," and by distributing it as a free gift to all who take an interest in the science. There is positively no cost nor charge in connection with this valuable book. If you write for it even on a postal card you will receive a free copy by the very next mail. If you do not learn Hypnotism it is your own fault. Now let me repeat,

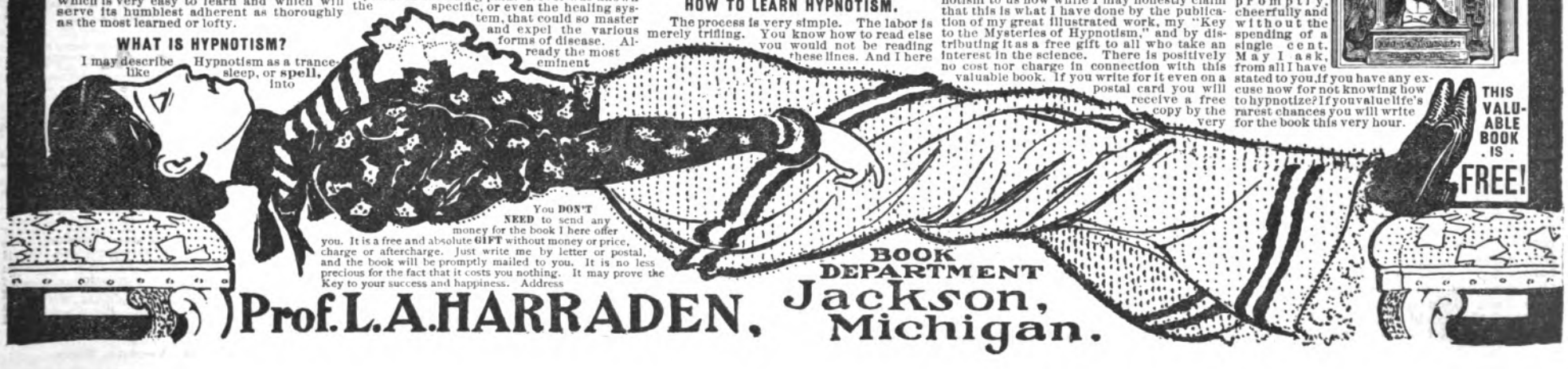
THIS WONDERFUL BOOK IS FREE!

It is free although the most interesting and precious treatise of the kind ever published. It unfolds every mystery and marvel of hypnotic science. It tells you all that Hypnotism is to mortal ken and all it can accomplish through mortal agency. It tells you how you may sway the minds of others, perform the most surprising or laughable feats and thus give entertainments by the hour to any assembly. If you aspire to learn Hypnotism, if you want to know how to hypnotize, this treatise is beyond all others your fitting friend and counsellor.

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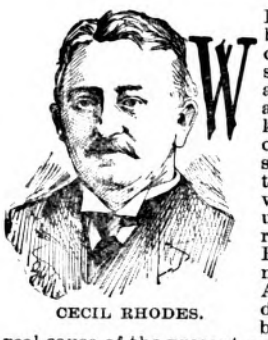
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BOOK DEPARTMENT

Prof. L. A. HARRADEN, Jackson, Michigan.

THE TRANSVAAL WAR.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



CECIL RHODES.

WHEN a man is killed by a corporation, the courts have as a rule set the value of life at $5000; so that this amount is generally known as the value of a man's life. In strange contrast to this amount is the value which was set upon the capture and ransom of Mr. Cecil Rhodes, the greatest man that South Africa has as yet produced, and believed by many to be the real cause of the present war. Mr. Rhodes was in Kimberley when it was first invested by the Boers and remained through the long siege of over one hundred days. He gave employment and food to thousands of Kaffirs; and with tact and intelligence assisted every move made for the safety of the city and its diamond mines. The complete success of the defense of the place until relieved by General French was largely due to his unremitting efforts.

It is undoubtedly time that he fully appreciated the desire that President Kruger and the Boers generally had to hold him as hostage, and that such knowledge must have materially added to his own intention not to be captured. Only a few days before Kimberley was relieved, and while the British were suffering reverse after reverse, Dr. Leyds, the Transvaal agent to Europe, gave out word from Brussels that when Rhodes was captured he would be held as hostage for the payment to the Dutch of $10,000,000 idemnity. This is by far the highest amount ever put upon the custody or life of any man and attracted much attention. Exactly what would have been done about it will always be a matter of conjecture, as the city was relieved and Mr. Rhodes remained uncaptured by his enemies.

The first decided British success in the present war was the relief of Kimberley by the entrance of Gen. French into that city. This left Gen. Piet Cronje, the Boer general investing the city, in a dangerous position and he beat a hasty retreat with his train from Magersfontein. He was overtaken by Gen. French's mobile column acting under Gen. Roberts, and a series of rear guard actions ensued. Finally, Cronje was penned on the Modder river and for eight days kept up a desperate resistance against overwhelming odds. His retreat and defence commanded the admiration of even his enemies. Finally he surrendered to Lord Roberts about 5000 men and a number of cannon. By a strange fate his unconditional surrender was on the nineteenth anniversary of his own great victory over the English in the former war at Majuba hill. Cronje has an evil reputation relative to certain alleged flag-of-truce duplicity which caused a certain personal dread of consequences. But Lord Roberts placed him in charge of a general officer. This surrender caused intense rejoicings throughout Britain.

One thing to be noted is that the English have learned from the Boers the necessity of more mobile troops and to that end the government has mounted a part of its infantry. It was this excessive mobility which allowed French to outflank the Boers. When Lord Roberts proceeded to invade the Free State many Boers necessarily were called away to form an army to oppose his advance. This must have greatly weakened the investing lines of the Boers around the besieged cities. As was pointed out in last month's COMFORT, the defence of Ladysmith for many months has upset every military theory. It has proven the most important resistance of the war and has been a proud record for Gen. White who thus far is easily the hero of the war. The casualties among British officers have been remarkable. Hardly a noble family in England but that mourns the loss of a son. Four heirs to peerages are already dead at the front, while there is a long list of wounded young noblemen. In the retreat of Cronje, Gen. Hector Macdonald commanding the famous Highland brigade is reported desperately wounded. Lord Salisbury, the English Premier, has a son wounded; while on the Boer side President Kruger's grandson is among the killed.



IN THE TRENCHES AT LADYSMITH.

Not the least important among the captured Boers were several foreigners assisting them. There was an Austrian in charge of artillery; a Swede officer, and the Prussian major to whose fertile brain the wonderful strategy and engineering skill shown by the Boer tactics and offense are attributed. It is difficult to ascertain exactly how many adventurers have gone to South Africa to fight in this war; but it is undoubtedly true that many men have been quietly enlisted in different cities of the world and smuggled abroad.



GEN. FRENCH.

But to turn from the actual campaign, of which it is not the intention of COMFORT to give a detailed account, we take up one or two matters that have been suggested to us. One writer desires to know how it is possible for the newspapers to give daily reports from Ladysmith when that city is closely invested by the enemy. The Transvaal war has gained distinction in being a conflict which has brought out great inventive genius and which has given a field for many experiments in military service. Among the most successful and at the same time most notable of these, has been the use of the heliograph, by which the beleaguered inhabitants and garrison of Ladysmith have been able to communicate with the outside world.

During the wars of this country communication has been made by various kinds of signalling, and heliographing itself was not unknown but was considered of doubtful value. The present system is really an invention of the time of Alexander the Great but was perfected in 1879. It was first used successfully by Lord Roberts when he was beleaguered in Khost and heliographed for reinforcements to Baunee, sixty miles away. It can be used successfully clear days for from twenty to forty miles, and read as easily as the electric telegraph and as rapidly. Its disadvantage is that it cannot be used on cloudy or stormy days at all.



GEN. HECTOR MACDONALD.

When used in the Kandahar campaign the heliograph was operated by a man, having chosen a position on a hill, who looked through a spot cleaned from his mirror by scraping away the quicksilver, which he wished to signal. He then set up in front of the mirror a rod bearing a movable button, or sight, like the foresight of a rifle, so that the sight would be on a line with the clear spot in the mirror and the distant station. Then he managed to have the reflection strike the sight, knowing they would reach the station aimed at. By the rapid manipulation of the reflection the rays were sent in dashes and dots as rapidly as with an ordinary telegraph key. In recent years the heliograph as far as mechanism is concerned has improved greatly but the action is the same as when first used by Lord Roberts. In our own country it is successfully used from Pike's Peak to Denver, sixty miles. The tropical atmosphere, especially the desert air, gives the best results and messages have been flashed 420 miles through ten stations in less than thirty minutes from start to finish.

The traction engine, which is a locomotive built to run on common roads instead of rails has been tried and successfully pulled long strings of wagons; but it has proven a failure in that a single shell might destroy it and make a whole train helpless. In addition, it has not the mobility of a pack or wagon train. The armored train about which so much has been written has been of doubtful value. Successful in some situations, terrible disasters have happened to them at other points. The captive balloon has generally been of much value in obtaining information. It is noticeable that the bicycle has hardly been spoken of and not seriously contemplated in the whole campaign, although for years it has been theoretically considered as a military adjunct. As of old the horse and mule remain the bearers of wood and water for the military and it looks as if nothing would take their place in campaigning.

The second great success of the British was in Gen. Buller's final accomplishment of the relief of Ladysmith, after a campaign desperately fought out on both sides and attended with appalling hardships and losses. The news of the final success of the British army and a portion entering the city on March 1st, was officially announced that day. Unparalleled demonstrations immediately occurred throughout the British possessions. The newspaper reports indicate that such enthusiasm and joy has not been seen in any country in this generation. The investment of Ladysmith lasted one hundred and twenty-six days. The garrison during that time lost eighteen thousand men. It is estimated that each of Gen. Buller's four charges lost the British over one thousand. Up to the last charge the official list showed the entire British casualties in the war as over twelve thousand. As this writing closes the Boer armies are apparently massing to prevent further advance of Gen. Roberts. It is hoped for humanity's sake the war may soon end and peace come with honor to the contending parties.

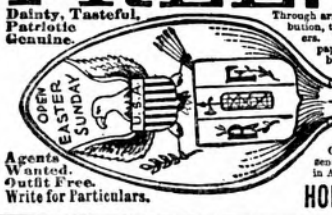
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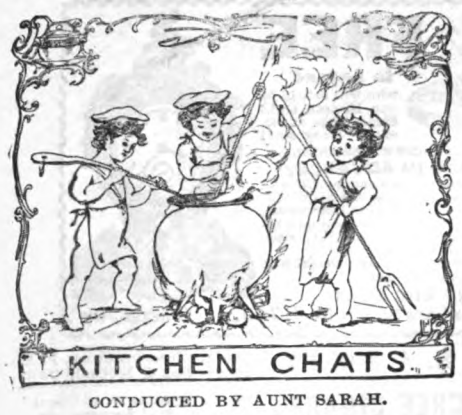
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THE revival of interest in domestic affairs, which is shown by the eagerness with which women listen to lectures on the science of proper living, is so widespread that scientists everywhere are trying to bring the home back to the old ideal. Those who live in or near the large cities have much the advantage of their sisters who are far removed from the great centers, and who have to depend largely on the papers to which they subscribe for their information regarding the latest experiments along these lines. For this reason we are going to devote the space in this department, this month, to some information regarding the Housekeeper's School, which was opened in Boston, Mass., about two years ago, under the auspices of the Educational and Industrial Union. Two connecting houses were taken and fitted up, one as the residence of the instructors and the young women who are studying, and the other as class rooms, kitchen, dining-room, study, lecture room and dormitories. The dormitories are arranged with folding screens, so that each girl has her bed, dressing table and commode all to herself.

It is supposed that no girl would apply for admission to this school who had not at least the rudiments of an education such as she would acquire from a grammar school, though there is no educational requirement. Of course she must have a good moral character, and be in good health.

The practical work includes the kitchen work, care of the fire, sink, traps; care of the kitchen, pantry, cellar and refrigerator; the preparation of cereals; bread, biscuit and muffin making; the making of plain soups; roasting, boiling and broiling meats and fish and the cooking of eggs and vegetables. Making tea, coffee, chocolate and cocoa and plain desserts. Plain washing and ironing and the general care of bed and table linen. In chamber work, care of the bedrooms, beds and bedding, sweeping and dusting and the care of the toilet and bath rooms, and of hardwood floors. In parlor work, care of dining-room, silver, glass and china, how to lay the table for and to serve the different meals; care of parlor and halls, the answering of door bells, and so forth.

The course covers a period of eight months, spent mostly in class work and practical work in the house. No charge is made for the pupil's tuition, room or board—as she gives her time in exchange for these. Usually the pupil is put into the kitchen to assist the cook and thus to learn all about the range and oven and the care of both. Then she does a turn of two or three weeks at cooking certain things and having general charge of the kitchen. She then goes to the dining-room, where she learns how to lay the table and how to wait on the table; the care of silver, glass and china and of the table linen. Her costume during this part of the work is a light wash dress, with white apron having brettelles over the shoulders, white cuffs and collar and a white cap. She then spends a week or two on parlor work, which is the general care of parlor and hall, answering bells, caring for the plants and flowers, also birds and pets. For this part of the work a black dress is required, with which she wears a white cap and apron, white collar and cuffs. Then she has an opportunity to do chamber work and after this a certain length of time in the laundry. Before she graduates she gets up a lunch or dinner, cooking everything herself, upon which the instructors are to pass judgment; after that she serves a dinner which some one else has cooked. She also launders fancy underwear, to be inspected by the instructors, thus passing a sort of examination in each branch of her work.

This gives an idea of what the pupil does in actual housework. Of course with all this there is the class work, to which a certain number of hours are given each day, in study and listening to lectures. These studies and lectures treat of house sanitation, soil, drainage, plumbing, heating, lighting, ventilation, cleaning and disinfection. Then comes the chemistry of food and laboratory work, and then follow on the purpose of the home—the furnishing and decorating, marketing and household buying.

It certainly seems as though every department of the home was given thoughtful consideration, and that the young woman who has taken this course would be well equipped for taking her place and giving perfect satisfaction in every way. In many cases this has been found to be so, but there are always exceptions to the rules, and the writer's personal experience with one of the graduates from this school was anything but satisfactory. This happened soon after the scheme was started, in fact I think this special girl was one of the first graduates, and it may be that the methods have been improved since then and so the great difficulty in this one case has been obviated in recent graduates. The trouble seemed to be in the entire lack of being able to get the work done within the usual number of hours devoted to housework. Each girl, during her residence at the school, does, as stated, each kind of work for a certain length of time. I have not been informed that she is expected, toward the end of her course, to devote one whole week to the work that she would do if she were to take a place as general housework girl in a family. This seems to me to be imperative. She should have for her duties the building of the fire in the range, getting breakfast, clearing away the breakfast and washing the dishes; dusting the living rooms and chambers and putting them in order. Then the getting of the midday meal, and after that doing the work in hand, according to the day of the week, and then getting the evening meal, whether dinner or tea, and clearing up after same and putting her kitchen and serving room in order. Of course this would be the rule followed in an ordinary household—the time between the chamber work and noon meal, and between the noon and evening meal, to be employed in the ironing, sweeping, cleaning of windows and silver, cooking, etc., etc., according as the family needs required, and to be regulated by the mistress. If each pupil were required to do this regular, systematic housework for two or three weeks before being allowed her diploma, the woman into whose service she went would have a blessing indeed, and this is, of course, one aim of this great work; and the other aim is that it may be understood that housekeeping is a profession demanding scientific training.

Now let me answer the question of one of our readers regarding Dario Moulds and Timbale Irons. The former are small tin cups, possibly 3 inches high, and cost about 4 cents each. Can be bought at hardware or kitchen furnishing shops. The Timbale iron is more expensive, being a solid piece of metal, usually diamond in shape, with a long handle. This iron is put into hot fat and when of the right heat is dipped into thin batter, which adheres to the iron. Then the iron is dipped again into the hot fat and the batter very quickly browns, as the coating is very thin on the iron. It is then removed from the fat and the Timbale falls off from the iron, and is a thin brown case, in which is served either something hot, such as creamed chicken, or something cold like strawberries. The cost of a Timbale iron is 75 cents.

THE CRISIS IN CHINA.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



It HAS often happened, in the ruling of great kingdoms the power behind the throne has been a woman. It is one of the marvels of the century that this should happen in a country where women are given no rights, no education and, in fact, are often killed as soon as born. In conservative China the Empress-dowager is the ruling power. For many years she managed the affairs of the nation from behind the throne; now she has banished the legal ruler and has taken everything into her own hands.

The Empress was born more than sixty years ago in one of the southern provinces of China and was well educated according to Chinese ideas, quite an exception to the rule of illiteracy among Chinese women. She became the second wife of the Emperor Hienfung and bore him a son. The true Empress had no children, so when the Emperor died the son of the second wife, then a mere infant, succeeded to the throne. By the will of the Emperor his two wives were made guardians over the boy, and they were to be assisted in ruling by a Court of Regency. The Empress-mother, (whose name is Tschi Toanya Kangi Chaoyu Chuangcheng Shokuny Chunhein Chungish) was a very clever woman and she saw that her power in the affairs of the kingdom would be next to nothing, so she took into her confidence the young Prince Kung, a younger brother of the late Emperor and unfolded a scheme by which, after executing the Court of Regency, they should rule the kingdom for the young heir, the Prince to be the executive Regent, but nothing was to be done without her advice and consent. The other Empress was of a very different disposition, quiet and retiring and not at all disposed to meddle with the affairs of state. Although both women lived in the imperial palace they saw but little of one another for the "forbidden city," the regal residence, is a series of palaces covering many acres of land and as impenetrable to foreigners as the sacred temples of India. What goes on within its close-guarded gates is a closed book to all save the members of the royal household. From without it is a most imposing pile, but within it is filthy as are all the streets and houses of China. Though hung with most gorgeous embroidered silks, and containing beautiful carved tables and screens, and cabinets filled with rare porcelain and bronze, the floors of the imperal palaces are seldom swept and bits of food and refuse of all kinds ornament there.

The plans and schemes of the Empress-mother and Prince Kung went on for many a year undisturbed by the other Empress. Of course the two schemers became deadly enemies, as is usually the case with partners in evil. The young Emperor, Tung Che, grew to be a dissipated libertine and lived but a few years after his accession to the throne. It now remained to choose another Emperor, for Tung Che left no heir. The Queen Regent was equal to the occasion and before any one could prevent she sent for the infant son of her husband's brother, and he is now the Emperor of China. During the minority of the young Emperor, Empress Tschi held the reins of government in her hands, Li Hung Chang being her prime minister. One mistake she made and that was her choice of a tutor for the young Kuang Su. This tutor was a liberal man who had done service in foreign courts, and he taught his young charge the English language and imbued him with modern ideas so that when he became Emperor in fact he introduced many improvements and a liberal policy which displeased the Dowager so that she plotted and planned until she succeeded in making him a prisoner in his own palace. There he is today, and liberalism in China has halted for a time. Within the year a new dawn seemed breaking for the poor, weak-willed monarch. Superstition, which is the ruling attribute of the Chinese mind, seemed working on the side of the Emperor.

Since July not a drop of rain has fallen in China. The crops have failed utterly and thousands of people are starving. In all the temples prayers are being offered, incense is being burned and everything that will appease an angry god is being done. All else having failed a sacred tablet was sent for from the south. This tablet is a piece of iron found in an ancient temple under mysterious circumstances, and is supposed to have an occult influence on the rainfall. It was brought to Pekin with the greatest ceremony and there it has been worshiped by the multitude, but no rain has fallen. It is said that its power has never failed before and the cause given is that the Emperor has always gone in person and prostrated himself before it. Now the monarch who should have performed this function is imprisoned in the palace. Already a reversal of feeling is taking place. It is thought that the gods are angry because of the usurpation of authority by the Empress and the enforced abdication of the Emperor. It is however a strange circumstance that in spite of the advance in modern thought and the power of superstition, the influence of the Dowager Empress is still so strong that the latest news from China tells us of another reversal of affairs. The Empress has brought to bear all her power and influence and has forced Kwang Su to appoint in his place Put Sing, a prince of another branch of royalty. Put Sing is but nine years old and as the Empress is his guardian this move simply means the abdication of the throne in favor of the Dowager Empress who fears the radical European ideas for which Kwang Su stands. It is to be hoped that this report is not true and that the Emperor Kwang Su may yet assume the responsibilities of his position.



A WEALTHY wine merchant of Cleveland has a wine cask, which is to be one of the sights at the Paris Exposition. Its construction occupied the entire time of a hundred and fifty-four men for a year. Some idea of its size may be gathered from the statement that it was used as a dining-room for a hundred and fifty-four guests. The interior was reached by going up a shallow flight of stairs extending from a platform. At the bottom of the cask a floor was laid, and tables were laid down the length of the floor. The cask was electrically lighted, and the interior looked very little different from an ordinary room, except for the curved formation or the sides and roof.

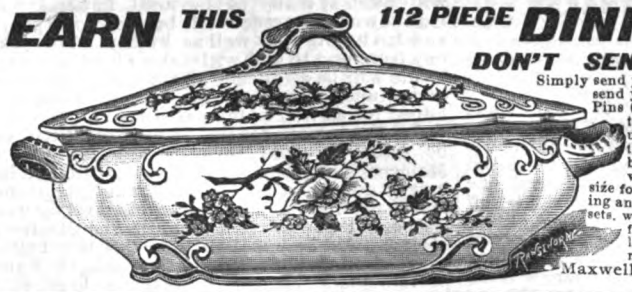
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Simply send your name and address & we will send you 5 doz. sets of Ladies Beauty Pins (each set with an exquisite Jewel) to sell at 25c. a set. When sold, send us the money and we will send you this handsome China Dinner Set, beautifully decorated and trimmed with Gold. Not a toy set, but full size for family use. No charge for packing and boxing. If you cannot sell all the sets, we will send you a handsome present for those you do sell. Don't miss this liberal offer. We trust you and will run all the risk. Write to-day. Maxwell Co., Dept. 712, St. Louis, Mo.

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STEAM CEREAL COOKER & EGG POACHER



Our No. 200 Cooker and Egg Poacher consists of large bottom pan 10¼ in. wide with inside rack & cereal pan which holds five pints for cooking cereals, etc. It allows the steam to circulate over and into them making the kernels tender, delicious and readily digestible. It also has a tray with five deep cups for puddings, custards, etc., and for poaching eggs, steaming oysters, etc. Eggs are poached by steam in two minutes, not broken and water soaked. A little cup for each egg. We are the largest manufacturers of specialties in Aluminum, Granite and Tin Ware. AGENTS write how to get FREE this and four of our other best selling household novelties. Outfit worth $2.00—express prepaid. Address Dept. 143. HOUSEHOLD NOVELTY WORKS, 25 Randolph St., Chicago, Ill. or New York, N. Y.; Buffalo, N. Y.; St. Louis, Mo.; Kansas City, Mo.; Denver, Col.; Seattle, Wash. *This Co. is worth a Million Dollars and is reliable.—Ed.*

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Cooks a whole meal over one burner, *on gasoline, oil, gas, or common cook stove.* Reduces Fuel Bills One-half. Makes tough meats tender. Prevents steam and odors. Whistle blows when cooker needs more water. Dinner Sets, Bicycles, Watches, and other Valuable Premiums given with order for Cookers. Send for illustrated catalogue. *We pay express.* Agents Wanted. TOLEDO COOKER CO., Box 74, Toledo, O.



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THE MAGICAL SPONGE.



THE WONDER OF THE 20th CENTURY.

For Polishing and Cleaning Windows, Signs, Mirrors, Show Cases, Gold, Silver, Nickel, also Jewelry, Copper, Brass and Tin.

For the Bath IT HAS NO EQUAL.

A Labor-Saving device entirely new and universal in demand. Will last a lifetime and costs but Twenty-five cents. Just on the market and over 500 Gross sold last month. Every family in the land wants one or more. All you do to sell them is simply show the lady of the house or the office man how it works on his window and you will depart with one less every time, but in its place a quarter.

The Magical Sponge differs from the ordinary sponge in nature, while the common sponge is of vegetable origin and found in the ocean, the Magical Sponge is a mineral production and found in the United States, dug from the ground, carefully prepared and manufactured into sponges for the Housekeeper, Merchant, Liveryman, Metal Workers, and all persons who desire to keep their homes, offices, and business places in a clean and healthy condition.

No Soap or water is needed or even used with the Magical Sponge for Cleaning Windows or any outside Metal. In the winter time it has no equal, it does not freeze, and no water being used (other than what is in the sponge) all trouble and hard work is avoided. For Cleaning Baseboards, Window Sills, Wainscoating and painted surfaces, it acts like a charm; takes all the finger marks, spots, grease and dirt away, leaving a Clean, Polished Surface.

Good men wanted all over the country to handle these goods, big inducements offered steady workers, and exclusive sale. To Agents, Salesmen, and house to house canvassers, who send us 25 cents for a 6 months' subscription, we will send one sample post paid, and make them a business proposition. Write at once. Secure your territory. Address COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

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YOU PRESS THE HANDLE. IT TAKES THE HULL QUICKER AND NEATER THAN BY HAND.

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OUR STRAWBERRY HULLER

hulls Strawberries, Gooseberries, Black Currants, etc., and picks out Basting Thread and Stitches.. Has place for thumb and forefinger; doesn't slip or fill up. A simple little thing, saving Time (most essential thing to housekeepers), Temper, Stained and Sore Fingers. Will not crush ripest fruit. Takes out soft and green spots, leaving berries clean, neat, and clear cut, making them look fifty per cent better in the dish, and makes you wonder why it was not thought of before. With one you can do the work twice as quickly, and without any of the usual unpleasant features of this work. Every lady who tries this once in the berry season will never be without it again, or allow her friends to hull berries with fingers. One trial only is needed. Housekeepers write, "Could not get along now without it." They are brightly nickel-polished and ornamental. Splendid side line. A day's supply goes in your pocket. We deliver all goods so your profit is clear. Send for trial sample, which we will send prepaid for 10 cents, including 3 months' trial subscription to this paper. Send 25c. for one year's subscription and we will send one-half dozen Hullers free; or send 50c. for two years' subscription and we will send one dozen Hullers postpaid. Agents' terms sent on application. NATIONAL FARMER, Augusta, Maine.

FOUR GREAT CANALS.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



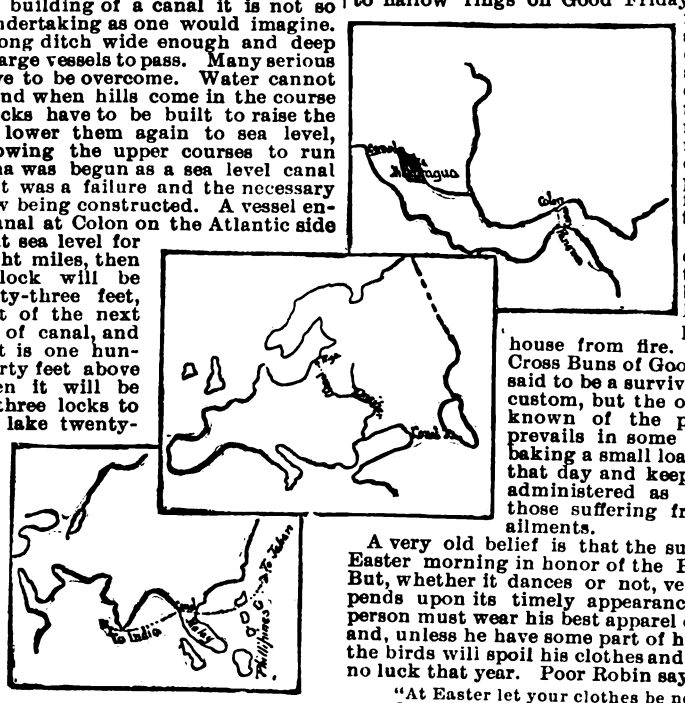
A MAP of the trade routes of the world shows the continents crossed and recrossed by railroads, and the oceans marked off with long lines, showing where the ocean liners make their straight courses from port to port. No expense is spared in shortening the distance between important points, and engineering skill is tasked to its utmost to achieve this end.

At the present time four great schemes are before the world, their aim being to improve the facilities for commerce; four great canals are proposed in which four of the continents are interested; in North America the Nicaragua, in South America the Panama, in Europe the Russian and in Asia the Malacca. Panama and the Russian canal are already under way, while the other two are, as yet, in the air.

To Americans a short cut from the Atlantic to the Pacific is becoming of more and more importance. As our interest in the East increases a short route for steamers will become indispensable; and our government, recognizing this fact, has authorized several commissions to investigate the feasibility of Nicaragua as a position for a canal. Several plans have been presented, all of which call for engineering work on a gigantic scale as well as millions of dollars in money. Yet the undertaking is considered so important, and public opinion is so much in favor of it that it will doubtless be carried out.

But of what advantage is a Nicaragua canal to be if the Isthmus of Panama is already being intersected by a canal, which may be finished before its neighbor is begun? The Panama canal is not an American enterprise and when completed American vessels may, at any time, be excluded from its use. It is being built by French capital, and although at one time it was much in disgrace in the financial world, it is at present progressing, though not rapidly. Thus it appears that a canal under control of the United States government, well fortified for time of war, and awarding special privileges to American shipping, would be of inestimable value to us if our interests in the East are to mean anything.

As to the building of a canal it is not so simple an undertaking as one would imagine. It is not a long ditch wide enough and deep enough for large vessels to pass. Many serious obstacles have to be overcome. Water cannot run up hill and when hills come in the course of a canal, locks have to be built to raise the vessels and lower them again to sea level, without allowing the upper courses to run dry. Panama was begun as a sea level canal but as such it was a failure and the necessary locks are now being constructed. A vessel entering the canal at Colon on the Atlantic side will travel at sea level for seven or eight miles, then entering a lock will be raised twenty-three feet, to the height of the next long stretch of canal, and so on until it is one hundred and thirty feet above sea level; then it will be lowered by three locks to an artificial lake twenty-one miles long, and by two locks to sea level. This canal will be forty-six miles long, made entirely by excavation.



The proposed Nicaragua canal will be about one hundred and eighty miles long, but in its course it will make use of Lake Nicaragua and a long stretch of river so that the actual excavation will be but twenty-seven to thirty miles. This sounds encouraging, but Lake Nicaragua is one hundred and ten feet above sea level and if an opening were made to the sea its waters would be immediately discharged and the lake would be dry. To keep this as a reservoir and store house for the canal and river two great dams must be constructed, one at either end of the lake, so that the flow of water can be regulated. Ships will then pass through a series of locks to the lake, across the lake and be lowered by a series of locks on the other side to the sea level. Another expense which has to be met is the dredging of two harbors, Brito on the Pacific, and Graytown on the Atlantic. Then, too, a temporary railroad must be built for use during the construction of the canal. Panama has to meet neither of these expenses for Panama and Colon are already flourishing towns connected by a railroad which follows the route of the canal.

Yet in spite of all obstacles, expense, and unfavorable conditions it seems likely that Yankee ingenuity and perseverance will overcome all, and we may not be surprised if the American canal is in working order before its more slowly moving neighbor.

Turning to the Old World we find the Russian Canal already progressing. Perhaps we should hardly call this "The Russian Canal" for there are many such in Russia but this is the newest and the longest and is to connect the Baltic with the Black Sea. The work was begun in the spring of 1898 and it will require about five years for its completion. Starting from Riga, on an arm of the Baltic, vessels will sail up the Duna River to Dunaburg where they will enter the canal, which will extend to Lepel on the Berezino River; thence they will proceed on the Berezina and Dneiper to the Black Sea, entering it at Kherson, Russia, near Odessa. By thus using the courses of the rivers the actual excavation will be only about 800 kilometers though the entire distance from Riga to Kherson is 1600 kilometers. The canal will touch at many of the most important inland towns and vessels will be allowed to pass to and fro by night as well as by day. The journey from end to end will take about six days. Trade will be awakened in the inland sections, and much moral and intellectual advance is hoped for as well as increased trade.

Concerning the fourth great work little can be said. A canal through the Isthmus of Malacca would be an undertaking of much less magnitude than the other canals mentioned and it would save many miles of travel between China and India. If it is built the Straits of Malacca will be but little used and the British town of Singapore would fall into an unimportant place. It may, however be looked upon as one of the short cuts of the future.

CALENDAR SUPERSTITIONS.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



THE first of April is All Fool's Day and its merry-making is of the most secular nature. And yet an old writer solemnly affirms, without giving any reason for his affirmation however, that prayers said to the Virgin Mary on this day at eight o'clock a. m., are of wonderful efficacy, provided a Paternoster and Ave Maria are added to them. In the Public Advertiser for April 13th 1767, there is a curious explanation of the origin of this day of All Fools:

"*Humorous Jewish Origin of the Custom of making Fools on the First of April.* This is said to have begun from the mistake of Noah sending the dove out of the ark before the water had abated, on the first day of April; and to perpetuate the memory of this deliverance, it was thought proper, whoever forgot so remarkable a circumstance, to punish them by sending them on some sleeveless errand similar to that ineffectual message upon which the bird was sent by the patriarch."

The Thursday before Easter is known as Shere-Thursday because on that day it was the custom to have the hair and beard trimmed for Easter. On this day it was long the custom for kings or bishops to perform some act in imitation of our Saviour's pattern of humility, such as distributing food to the poor or washing the feet of paupers. James II. was the last English sovereign to perform such an act in person. The kings of England used formerly to hallow rings on Good Friday, and these rings were supposed to cure persons afflicted with cramps or fits. If the ring were made of a crooked sixpence its efficacy was all the greater.

There is an old belief that eating buns onGood Friday will protect the house from fire. These Hot Cross Buns of Good Friday are said to be a survival of a pagan custom, but the origin is unknown of the practice that prevails in some countries of baking a small loaf of bread on that day and keeping it to be administered as medicine to those suffering from internal ailments.

A very old belief is that the sun dances on Easter morning in honor of the Resurrection. But, whether it dances or not, very much depends upon its timely appearance, for every person must wear his best apparel on that day and, unless he have some part of his dress new, the birds will spoil his clothes and he will have no luck that year. Poor Robin says:

"At Easter let your clothes be new,
Or else be sure that you will rue."

In some parts of England the common people spend St. Mark's Eve, April twenty-fifth, in watching on the church porch from eleven o'clock at night until one in the morning. This watch must be kept for three years and, in the third, the watcher will see passing before him a procession of the ghosts of all those who are to fall ill during the next year. Those who are to die remain in the church but those who will recover return after a stay that is longer or shorter according to the length of their coming illness. On this night the ashes are also spread on the hearth and, should any of the family be destined to die during the year, the print of his or her shoe will be found there in the morning. To quote Poor Robin's Almanack again:

"On Saint Mark's Eve, at twelve o'clock,
The fair maid will watch her smock,
To find her husband in the dark,
By praying unto good Saint Mark."

It is said that in Porto Rico there are few birds, no snakes, no monkeys and no birds of prey. The length of the island is ninety miles and the area 3670. The population is 820,000—300,000 of which are negroes. It was discovered by Columbus in 1493. It is more densely populated than Connecticut and produces the finest coffee in the world. The annual output of tobacco is 7,000,000 pounds, and the banana crop averages 200,000,000. There are one hundred and thirty-seven miles of railway and four hundred and seventy miles of telegraph. Cock fighting is the chief sport.

The maximum age of the elm tree is 335 years; of the cypress, 350; The ivy, 450; larch, 570; chestnut, 600; orange, 630; palm, 650; olive, 700; oak, 1500; yew, 2900.

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This genuine 14k. Rolled Gold Ring or a Band Ring, Bracelet, Hat Pin, Chatelaine, Knife, Shirt Waist Set, or a Pocket book



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OUR PREMIUMS ARE THE BEST.

M. R. COMPANY, 79 Dearborn St., Dept. 140, Chicago, Ills

A MAGIC FLUTE ROMANCE.

John Henderson is the luckiest man in the West. If you don't believe it ask him and he will confess it, and tell you moreover that he owes all his good luck in his life to the Magic Flute. It is a strange story, but the true facts are these: Mr. Henderson was in love. The object of his affections was a beautiful young girl of his native town, Des Moines. She was a musical enthusiast and had suitors by the score, for she was not only charming and beautiful of face and figure, but to these graces she added the talent of a superb musician. Naturally, though Mr. Henderson pressed his suit with great ardor, as he was not a performer on any musical instrument he failed to make the desired impression, however much he loved music, and dearly loved the object of his affections.

Happening in Omaha one day, quite disconsolate, he was astonished to hear sweet and tender strains issuing from the rear door of what proved to be a music store. He paused at the curbstone and listened. It was one of the favorite songs of his beloved, and so mellow and sweet were the sounds that they brought tears to his eyes. Entering the store the stranger asked what sort of an instrument it was that gave forth such magic sounds. He was shown the Magic Flute which had just arrived from New York. Thinking that the instrument that performed such tone miracles must have cost a hundred dollars or more, he was amazed to see what a trifling sum. He bought the instrument, and the next day returned to his native city and that night under the window of the maiden who had rejected him for his lack of musical abilities, Mr. Henderson poured forth his soul in the songs she loved so well. What was the result? The neglected lover was reinstated in the affections of the fair one, the rival suitors retired beaten in the game, and shortly after he was offered a large nightly sum by a celebrated impressario to appear in concert halls in the leading cities of the United States. Mr. and Mrs. Henderson, completely happy and full of gratitude for the working of the Magic Flute, are at present traveling in the East, playing to large houses, Mrs. Henderson accompanying her husband on the piano. The musical world is amazed and delighted with the performances of Mr. Henderson on the Magic Flute. And yet his case is merely typical. You may not win a lovely bride by your skill on the wonderful instrument, but one thing you can do, even if you do not know one note from another, you can play a tune in five minutes and should delight your friends with it within a week.

We have made arrangements with the manufacturers to introduce these wonderful Flutes, and will send one free, all charges paid, including a trial yearly subscription to all sending 25c. to COMFORT Subscription Department, Augusta, Maine. Agents are selling large quantities of these Flutes and you better not delay in sending for a sample and getting wholesale prices.

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CUT THIS AD. OUT and send to us with 25 or 44 cents and 5 cents extra for postage, and we will send either knife to you by return mail, postpaid, and if you do not find it equal to any knife you could buy elsewhere at double the price, say so and we will immediately return your money.

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FREE! Any one can earn this beautiful gold-plate American or hunting case stem-winder watch, by selling our Headache Tablets. OUR GRAND OFFER: Send name and address (no money) and we will mail you 18 pkgs. tablets, you sell at 10c. each and remit us $1.80, and we will send you a watch *free*. NOTICE—Some firms offer a watch, chain and charm, but only give a chain and charm. We give a watch.

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Every family in America is ready to buy "The light that sells on sight"—the wonderful new invention called ARC-LIGHT WICK.

It burns a whole year without trimming. It kills a candle, discounts kerosene, beats gas, and almost equals electricity or sunlight.

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The same kind of carbon that gives the electric light its brilliancy is woven into the Arc-Light by a patent process. We hold affidavits showing that an Arc-Light burned 1040 hours, giving the last hour the same perfect, brilliant, light it gave the first.

A single lamp manufacturer in New England, who bought over 35,000 writes: "The Arc-Light beats all others. It sells our lamps, and turns night into day." Every home, store, hotel, saloon, hall, church, or car company will buy the Arc-Light Wick, or sight. We have made arrangements with the manufacturers to introduce this wonderful discovery, and we offer for 60 days the following wholesale terms to agents:

Medium or A wick, 5-8 inch wide—the size for house lamps—by mail, sample 5 cents; per dozen, 25 cents; per gross, $2.50, Small or B wicks, for band lamps, lanterns, etc., 3-8 inch wide, sample, 5 cents; per dozen, 25 cents, per gross, $2.50 Large or B wicks, for table, hall, store, or bracket lamps, 1 inch wide, sample, 5 cents, per dozen, 25 cents; per gross, $3.50. D wick, 11-2 inches wide, for incubators, hall, bracket, or store lamps, sample, 8 cents; 33 cents dozen; $3.50 gross. A round wicks for parlor lamps, sample, 33 cents; per dozen, pile wick, 8 cents, per dozen, 75 cents; per gross, $8.50. On all orders for $10.00 accompanied by the cash, 15 per cent. off. Send for sample dozen, giving width desired, and see how they go. We can supply you with any style ARC-LIGHT WICK in any quantities, from a single wick to a thousand dozen.

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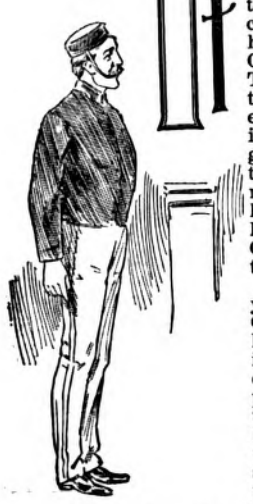
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The British Soldier at Home.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



If A stranger in London asks a native resident what is the most interesting sight in the city, ten chances to one he is told, "The Horse Guards at Whitehall." This was as true before the South African war excitement arose as it is now, and shows how great is the regard of the average Englishman for the army, and how prone he is to look upon the Horse Guards as the army's typical representative.

In course of many years the words "Horse Guards" have come to have a double meaning in England. They designate certain companies of troops, and they also designate the building in London which is looked upon as the headquarters of the British army. The structure to which the words Horse Guards is applied is a portion of the Admiralty, a rambling collection of buildings situated between the lower end of St. James Park and the street called Whitehall. Across the park is Buckingham Palace, the home of Queen Victoria when she is in London, and across the street is Whitehall, the beginning of what was to have been another royal home.

The great Cardinal Wolsey once lived on this site, in a palace of his own. Years after he was dead, and his great house destroyed, Charles I. began to build a palace there which he called Whitehall. Only a small wing of the palace, as the King planned it, had been completed when the coming into power of Cromwell and the Puritans made the king a captive and his palace a prison. The fragment of the building stands to-day, just as he left it, and we look upon the very window in the second story from which the king stepped out upon that "high scaffold" on which, in the sight of thousands, he was to die.

The Admiralty Building is the official residence of the First Lord of the Admiralty and his associates, and from it are issued the orders which direct the movements of the British Navy around the world. What used to be one of the famous sights of London, a thing which people flocked in crowds to this building to look at, is now gone. That was a semaphone erected on the highest part of the roof, and used to transmit messages before the introduction of the electric telegraph and telephone furnished a more rapid means of conveyance. This semaphone was quite similar to those employed in railroad yards now. A line of these instruments was erected all the way from this one on the Admiralty roof to Portsmouth harbor and Navy Yard, the rendezvous of the British fleet. Each instrument was in sight of the next, and by means of them messages could be sent from London to Portsmouth quicker than in any other way.

Originally the British War Office and the office of the Commander-in-Chief were in the Horse Guards Building, but many years ago, in order to give more room and to bring them nearer the Sovereign, these offices were moved into a huge house on Pall Mall, once the home of the Duke of Cumberland, the brother of George III. Here they adjoin Marlborough House, the town home of the Prince of Wales, and St. James Palace, the home of the Duke of York, while Buckingham Palace, the city home of the Queen, is only a little way off, with a bit of the Green Park in between.

The Horse Guards gets its name from the fact that for years there have been kept on guard duty there, constantly, two mounted sentries. These men are furnished alternately from two particular mounted regiments, the



IN ALL HIS GLORY.

"Life Guards," and the "Horse Guards Blue." They are more imposing to look at than any one can possibly imagine who has not seen them, and after I had once looked at them I could understand how the London people have come to love them as the incarnation of the British army.

To begin with, the horses are the very pick of horseflesh from the entire kingdom, and they are fed and groomed until they look like pictures. I don't know how the men who go on duty there are chosen, but I never saw one there who was not a magnificent physical specimen, while their uniforms and the trappings of the horses are resplendent. The men wear high metal helmets, with enormous plumes. Both horses and men are trained to stand without moving a muscle. It is astonishing how the beasts can be trained in this way. I have watched them for several minutes without seeing a motion, and I have been told that they have been known to stand an hour in that way.

In pleasant weather these guards stand in the open air, one on each side of the gate, but for the preservation of their feathers and so forth, when it rains, a substantial stone house, matching the architecture of the rest of the building, has been erected for each of them, just back of the place where they stand in fair weather. These little "castles" have a lofty arch in front, so that each guard can back his horse into his "box," and thus be sheltered from the weather, while at the same time both horse and man are plainly visible from the street. They look so picturesque when their gorgeous accoutrements have these gray old stone arches for settings, that I used to admire them quite as much when they were in their "boxes" as when they were in the open air.

The British soldier is apt to be found all over England, and wherever you see him, whether in London's streets, marching in companies in some great parade, or drilling in squads in front of some barracks, or off duty, strolling in Hyde Park with jaunty rattan cane in hand, or in white tented encampment in the green open country, he is almost always an ornament to the scene. The regular army uniform consists of tight fitting blue trousers, brilliant scarlet jacket, made to fit as smooth as a lady's basque, and a "swagger" round cap perched on one corner of the wearer's head and kept there only by the aid of a ridiculous band of black enamelled leather which crosses the man's face and goes under his chin, or quite as often, goes between the chin and under lip. One who sees a company of these soldiers on parade sometimes wonders how so many erect, broad-shouldered men can be got together. The erectness of their carriage is a matter of military drill, of course, but even the strictest of martinets hardly would be expected to command a man to broaden out his shoulders. What the drill sergeant cannot do, though, the tailor can. As a matter of fact a great many of the handsome scarlet jackets, which seem to fit so snugly, are padded and built out over the shoulders. I know this is so because during one summer which I spent in London I came to know several of the men in one company well, and not only frequently saw them with their jackets off, but sometimes tried the coats on myself. This artificial assistance to nature makes the men look well, but at the same time it renders the coats uncomfortably thick in a hot day. The fine appearance of the troops is increased in some cases—as that of the Queen's Guards—by admitting no man below a certain height. When a company is made up of resplendently uniformed men, no one of whom is under six feet tall, the effect is imposing.

The officers' quarters in the city barracks of a swell regiment are fitted up with an elegance to be equaled only in the homes of the nobility. During the London season of the year of which I have spoken I had occasion to pass the Knightsbridge Barracks frequently in the evening, and from the street could look directly into one of the officers' dining-rooms. The room was richly furnished, but with excellent taste. When the occupants were at dinner, in full dress or gorgeous uniform, especially if they were entertaining guests, the room made a picture as striking as it was attractive. Of course the cost of living in this style far exceeds an officer's pay. I know one lieutenant, a man of excellent family but with no income except his pay, who deliberately threw up his commission because he could not maintain himself after the fashion of his fellow officers.

The word Knightsbridge, by the way, does not, as a romantic mind might think, mark the spot where at some time in the historic past mail-clad knights guarded the arches of some time-crumbled mediæval bridge. The word is simply a corruption, or one might rather say improvement of a proper name, Neate's Bridge.



SOME people imagine that the enormous quantities of food which are left untouched each day by the guests in the large hotels is extravagantly consigned to the garbage barrel. As a matter of fact, this food, with the exception of what is used for soup stock and in the dressing for fowls, is so well taken care of that hardly a crumb of it is wasted. First of all the waiters help themselves to such portions as they care for, which are left upon the tables after a great feast, and keep them warm until such time as they are relieved from their duties, when they all have supper together off just these remains. The larger hotels in the great cities often have large stock farms, where they ship barrels of this broken food, daily, to be fed to the pigs and poultry. The smaller ones sell it to farmers who come around daily for it, or send it to the stockyards to be fed to the animals there. One well-known hotel offers this food for sale at a very low figure, and it is estimated that about forty poor families in that city have availed themselves of this opportunity, and every forenoon they may be seen lined up near the kitchen door, with large baskets, waiting for their customary ration. To each one is given as nearly as possible, an equal measure of bread, cake and meat, in return for which a small sum is paid.

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TALKS WITH GIRLS.

CONDUCTED BY
COUSIN MARION.

After April showers, dear cousins, come May flowers, and may every one of you find the pretty posies strewn along your pathway, not only now, but for all the years that you may live. And with this spring greeting let us get to the more serious task of answering your questions.

The first is from Gervaise of Grangeville, Idaho, who asks if it is correct to wear black slippers in the daytime, and I hasten to assure her that it is. (2) A necktie box with scarf and pin makes a very appropriate and acceptable present for your fiance.

Blue Belle, Belleville, Texas.—Invite a young man to your house simply by asking him to call. (2) Thank the young man when he says he is glad to meet you. (3) You may exchange scarf pins with a young man whom you know very well. (4) If a girl doesn't know how to greet her "beau" when he calls, she shouldn't have one.

Snow Flake, Charles City, Md.—I know of no significance in a stone Indian arrow dart, unless the young man wants you to think it is one of Cupid's.

Selfishness, Fort Dodge, Ia.—Try the Boston Bank again for the coin. (2) It is quite right to ask a young man to return your photograph. (3) Yes, the young man who offers no familiarities thinks more of a girl than one who does.

Olive and Sister, Cedar Grove, W. Va.—Don't marry one man when you love another, even if you can't marry the man you love. (2) There is no known plan to prevent a man paying you attention if he wants to do it. (3) If you live in a community where all the girls permit themselves to be kissed by the young men, you will have to move or remain unpopular, or do as the others do. (4) If the man is all right, marry him, whether your father wants you to or not. (5) There is such a thing as love, and marriages without it are very risky ventures. Don't try one. (6) Refuse to see the young man who insists upon kissing you.

Delila, Pidco, Texas.—If you intend to marry a man you should regard his wishes as to the friends you have. (2) It is best not to accept the attention of a man who drinks to excess. (3) It is quite right for church members to play harmless games—even cards when it is not for money or its equivalent.

Dott Dimple, Washington, D. C.—I don't know the colors of St. John's, Annapolis. St. John's, New York, are maroon; LaFayette's are maroon and white. (2) Don't be so nice to all the men who come to see you, but be a little nicer to one of them and see what the result will be. (3) Stop going with the girl who is polite to you merely because she likes your brother. (4) Inquire at any bookstore.

O. W., Canon City, Col.—Put olives in your mouth with your fingers.

Mattie H., Pisgah, Tenn.—Tell the young man he is mistaken and if he insists, leave the room. (2) There are many happy marriages in which the woman is older than the man. Do as you please. (3) By all means tell the young man if his cravat is not on straight. (4) It is not too familiar to ask your sweetheart to stop chewing tobacco and drinking. (5) Break your engagement with the young man who has treated you shamefully in the matter. (6) The lady sets the time of the wedding, unless the man is going off to the war or something like that.

Pansy, Berwick, La.—One or two good "love novels" by standard authors are enough in a month. (2) It is right enough to ring a young man up on a telephone but you should not do it when he is at work, unless very important.

Lottie, Peru, Ind.—"Tramp, Tramp, Tramp, the Boys are Marching" is out of print in the ordinary form, but you will find it in nearly any collection of songs. Ask your music dealer.

Snowflake, Piermont, N. H.—Nine years between man and wife is very good, but you should be older than nineteen. Wait four or five years and see what becomes of the troubles you are now having. (2) A girl of eighteen and a youngster of twenty should wait at least five years.

X. Y. Z., Battle Lake, Minn.—Don't go with the man who is "not fit for a lady to go with," of course. Aren't you a lady? (2) There isn't anything to say when a man thanks you after a dance.

Myrtle, Lawrence, Kans.—A man who has any spirit wouldn't ask a girl to dance with him after she had "mittened" him. (2) A man need not say when he expects to call again. (3) Address the university at Cambridge, Mass. (4) There is no set form of getting acquainted with people whom neither you nor your friends know.

Leora, Cherryvale, Kans.—Good novels read with other literature are of much benefit. Fairy tales by the great writers in that line are good literature. (2) The vast majority of people hold that the Sabbath of the Lord is the first day of the week, but it is the seventh according to Lev. XXV:4. (3) Very few persons are able to explain the meaning of many passages in Revelations, and I am not one of them. (4) There is not any one who is "the most noted preacher in the world." (5) The Bible does not explicitly speak against the wearing of jewels, but it advises moderation in all things.

Ida, Radersburg, Mon.—Stop thinking about the young man who comes to see you "unregularly" and let him go. (2) "Friendship letters" are permissible.

Ida S., Columbia Springs, W. Va.—Medical students are given the courtesy title of Doctor.

"Graduate, Westport, Pa.—Don't wear gloves at your graduation, nor a dress longer than usual.

Lillie and Ida, Cedar City, Mo.—Use your own common sense in replying to the usual courtesy speeches, and lead the way into your own house. (2) A plate should not be turned down; place knife and fork at either side of it. (3) The first dance belongs to your escort.

Edna, Rochester, N. Y.—Your case calls for more than patent medicines. Talk to your family physician.

Dorothy, Brookfield, Mo.—If the young man loves you he will tell you so. If he does not he will do as he is now doing. Tell him you must not see him any more. That may bring him to his senses.

Twilight, Goliad, Texas.—There is a law in most if not all states against cousins, that is first cousins, marrying.

Brown Eyes, Lamar, Mo.—If you and your mother think the young man is all right, possibly you might go against your father's wishes, but it is not best to do so. Ask your mother the other questions you ask me.

Almira, Greenleaf, Wis.—Thank a young man always for his escort or other courtesy and choose your own language. (2) See answer to X. Y. Z.

Daisy, Pollard, Ala.—Let him tell his love or let him go. (2) A scarf pin or match safe, or cigar case or a cane or any of the little silver conveniences for men will make a good present for a birthday.

Effie, Lane, Ky.—It is correct to use the letters "M. D." after a Doctor's name. (2) "My dear Mr. X." or "Dear Mr. X." or "My dear Friend" are very good forms of address until the letters grow more tender.

Lucy, Syracuse, N. Y.—I can not advise any particular correspondence school, but write to all you know of and get their terms and advice and decide for yourself. A woman could not do all the work required of an electrical engineer.

Edna S., Bartlett, N. H.—Ask your mother about your hair and your dresses.

Darling, Selma, Ala.—Ask your dressmaker about a summer wardrobe for the Gulf coast. Maine is too far away. (2) See answer to Pansy. (3) Two young men in a buggy may stop a young lady on foot and talk to her if they are all good friends. Why not? (4) I can't suggest a way for you to make "church money."

Now dears, all your questions are answered and all my space is gone, so with the very best wishes till me meet again I am your

COUSIN MARION.

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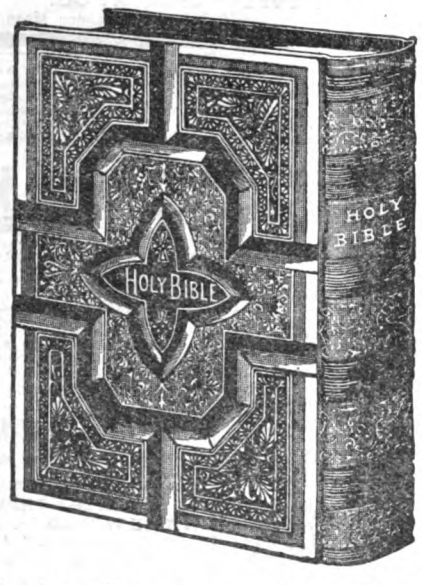
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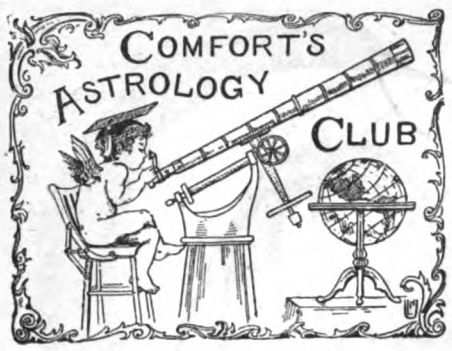
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CONDUCTED BY REGULUS.



THE Astrological Diagram erected for the time of the New Moon, which occurs just after midnight between the 28th and 29th of April, serves as the basis of judgment of events for the month of May. At the time of the New Moon the 20th degree of Capricorn will be rising with Saturn just above the horizon, and the 13th degree of Scorpio will be culminating. SATURN is therefore the ruler of the scheme for the month and as he is in his own house, though retrograde, his promise for the month is better than the average. The air will be temperate and healthy with moderate and seasonable rains. The great benefic JUPITER in the 11th, most elevated, and in his own sign, in good aspect with Mercury and with Mars, the ruler of the Midheaven, presignifies general prosperity, faithful allies, just laws, and honor for churchmen.

Mars on the 3rd indicates some kind of disorder on a railroad, and the probable discovery of some unusual thieving or dishonesty in the postal service. Venus in the 5th indicates an increase in the birthrate, especially of female children and a more prosperous period for theaters and places of entertainment. There will be marked increase of travel and a busy time for the railways and the post office.

Saturn's presence in Capricorn is unfortunate for Mexico and for India. In the latter country troubles come thick and fast. Famine and disease there inflict unusual suffering.

CELESTIAL CALENDAR FOR MAY, 1900.

MAY 1—Tuesday. Mischievous to the purse are the conditions of this forenoon; speculators beware of temptation. Do not invest thy means for purposes of money gains, especially in any scheme concerned with patents or patented articles; do not expect any favor from thy dealings with government officials or persons representing large corporations or organizations of any kind. As the noon hour is passed let every energy be given to thy several avocations, and particularly to those of a literary or commercial character and such as relate to the manufacturing and mechanical enterprises; do extensive correspondence, mathematical and scientific work, and the manufacture of artistic goods; the afternoon and evening are peculiarly appropriate for all kinds of mental labor and for initiating all literary work of consequence.

2—Wednesday. An especially favorable day for the elegant occupations; the artist, beginning this day, should paint successfully and profitably; art exhibitions can be begun here with profit; seek musical entertainment and have dealings in articles of adornment.

3—Thursday. Have no engagements pertaining to houses and lands during the early morning hours, but otherwise urge all thine avocations to the utmost during the day; seek favors from persons in public places and from thine employer.

4—Friday. The first part of the day promotes combustibility and may witness some bad fires, when also care should be had in handling horses, dogs and the brute creation generally; be master of thy temper and keep thy wits and a pleasant tongue; do not engage in any kind of controversy nor enter into any contract of consequence; be watchful of the purse in the afternoon and do not pay out thy cash except for necessaries.

5—Saturday. Vigorously employ this day for thy business engagements of consequence giving preferences if any to money transactions and commercial affairs, due caution being had against haste of action or decision. Persons born about the 11th of January, 12th of July or 13th of October, of past years, are advised that this is an exciting time for them; they should keep a civil tongue, be slow to take offence, avoid everything like controversy and not be careless with fire or explosives.

6—Sunday. Not particularly promising for a Sabbath day, though the latter part of the day is noted for increased activity of mind and body, more conducive to restlessness than quiet contemplation of religious subjects.

7—Monday. Begin this day early and urge all business diligently. REGULUS particularly urges his friends in both the intellectual and artistic pursuits to press their several enterprises to the utmost and recommends the day equally for the merchant, tradesman, and traveller; for change of residence and dealings with printers, booksellers, stationers, real estate men and counsellors; give preference to the afternoon for house furnishing and decorating, or for landscape painting and agricultural and horticultural work of every description, also for architectural work and contracts pertaining to building and construction.

8—Tuesday. Have care what writings are signed during this day, especially if they pertain to money matters or if they obligate thee for the benefit of others; do not execute any contracts or travel unnecessarily, nor be concerned in the affairs of public organizations or corporations; the morning is more conducive to bad fires involving property losses of magnitude and unusual care should be had in this respect; do not make any application to large corporations for any favor or advantage nor have anything to do with patents, trade-marks or copyrights.

9—Wednesday. Use forenoon hours in preference to the other parts of the day; when deal with government officials, politicians and persons in authority generally; the day as a whole is a good one for the vigorous prosecution of all established business.

10—Thursday. Musical and artistic pursuits and the elegant occupations generally suffer peculiar annoyances and embarrassments for a few days now passing and the gentle sex appear at a disadvantage or suffer in greater proportion than usual; troubles peculiar to the sex are increased and kidney troubles are accelerated; suicide from poison among them and an unusual number of violent evils to the gentle sex are induced at this time. Special caution is urged in these respects for persons born about the 24th of March, 26th of June, or the 27th of September or December of past years; they should be strictly temperate in habit, avoiding too free living, dissipation, indulgence in follies, extravagance in expenditures, either through vanity, boasting, false pride or for self-gratifications. The tender sentiments prove sources of unusual embarrassment or suffering in many of the lives of those so born. The first half of the day is peculiarly evil and prompts the postponement of very important beginnings; enter into no contract concerning real estate, avoid thy landlord and await a more fitting opportunity for thy dealings with the aged and infirm; but especially is this day to be avoided for wooing or wedding, very strange and unfortunate terminations may be looked for in the matrimonial engagement now made or the marriage consummated at this time; the afternoon should be given the preference for the more important undertakings of the day.

11—Friday. Have dealings in the forenoon of this day with public officers or managing authorities or superintendents in great corporations or upon large public works, when also solicit favor from railway officials and from persons of prominence and noted for eccentricity of conduct or habit.

12—Saturday. Avoid rashness of word or act during the forenoon, nor be easily moved to wrath; the forenoon is also unusually dangerous for surgical operations, especially if performed upon the head or kidneys; the day improves as it advances, encouraging the transactions looking towards building or other improvements to real estate and is to be employed for active prosecution of all the honorable pursuits of life; the evening is less propitious for any literary work or study.

13—Sunday. The forenoon gives musical and artistic inclinations though the day is rather indifferent in other respects.

14—Monday. More conflicting conditions than usual prevail on this day; give no offence to thy superior or employe nor seek any advantage from persons in authority.

15—Tuesday. This is the merchant's own day and an especially fortunate one for every honorable pursuit; buy goods for trade; speculate in stocks and securities, although in this extraordinary method of money getting the nativity should be more directly relied upon, and seek favors and money accommodations.

16—Wednesday. Begin early and improve every moment in the pursuits of art, music, and in the elegant avocations generally; deal in fancy goods and engage in business pertaining to decoration, adornment, dramatical goods or entertainments.

17—Thursday. Be early astir for urging the chemical, electrical and mechanical pursuits and dealings in metals and machinery, but as the noon passes put on the "caution cap" as to all dealings in houses and lands and do not be surprised if progress in general undertakings is checked for a few hours; do not expect much satisfaction from the musical, social or dramatic entertainment of the evening.

18—Friday. Use all this day for thine engagements with persons in the intellectual and literary pursuits; urge correspondence, sign contracts, engage help and travel.

19—Saturday. Use this forenoon for seeking favor from persons in authority or thy superiors in business but as the day advances put a bridle on the tongue, avoid haste in act and deed and do not engage in quarrels or controversies; surgical operations, especially upon the female anatomy, better be postponed for a season, where possible, as inflammatory conditions prevail; the day at 2 o'clock is superior for soliciting money favors, buying goods for trade, and pushing all established commercial ventures.

20—Sunday. An indifferent day, in which conditions contribute but little to the success of pulpit efforts or religious zeal.

21—Monday. Give preference to the forenoon for the important ventures of the day, though dealings in fancy or ornamental goods should be only sparingly made and then only when absolutely necessary; the late evening and night hours are recommended for planning enterprises pertaining to buildings and mechanical and manufacturing ventures of all kinds; also mining and chemical undertakings.

22—Tuesday. Beware of very flattering promises in the schemes or enterprises which present themselves in the first half of this day, when also watch the finances and be not extravagant in expenditure; as noon is passed let every energy be devoted to affairs in thy life which relate to the decorative or artistic; to wearing apparel and the elegant pursuits and the fine arts generally.

23—Wednesday. Another of the very good days of the month for the vigorous prosecution of general business; the morning is especially recommended for the literary pursuits, the transaction of business with lawyers; the execution of deeds and all classes of mercantile contracts; applications to printers, presswriters, scientists, mathematicians and also to persons of prominence in public office.

24—Thursday. Personal applications for favor from persons of wealth or prominence are more likely to succeed in the forenoon of this day than general; the day is excellent as well for all honorable undertakings of life; make important purchases of merchandise for trade, except those in a fancy or artistic line, and have thy dealings with monied institutions in the forenoon.

25—Friday. Do not speculate or loan thy money or credit during the first half of this day; the afternoon and evening are favorable for dealings with landlords and contractors and in real estate, mining properties, lumber, wool, and coal.

26—Saturday. Be careful in speech during the morning hours and "make haste slowly" in forming judgments, for rashness will now work great injury; the afternoon is the best part of the day and should be vigorously employed forwarding all the elegant pursuits and those portions of thine affairs that relate to the apparel or the decorative or artistic features.

27—Sunday. A favorable day for success of pulpit efforts.

28—Monday. *Total Eclipse of the Sun.* Begin the day early; do correspondence and urge business with vigor; deal with booksellers, publishers, stationers, and all engaged in the intellectual pursuits. The day, however, is less propitious for financial transactions and does not encourage the buying of goods for sale, nor should much advantage be expected from applications to bank or other monied institutions for funds; see that losses are not suffered in any of thy money dealings and be careful not to bind thyself security for others, or loan thy means or credit.

29—Tuesday. An indifferent day in nearly all respects and caution is suggested against the execution of deeds or writing and also against correspondence of importance; troubles with correspondence and through written obligations are more likely to develop here.

30—Wednesday. Be cautious about signing any contract pertaining to houses or lands on this day, nor should dealings be had in such commodities as coal, iron, wood, lumber, lead, wool, or grain; the afternoon invites activity in such undertakings as are concerned with machinery and chemicals; deal with cutlers, surgeons, chemists, bakers, barbers, tailors, cattle-traders, tanners, carpenters, and military men; when also consult thy dentist and experiment in chemistry and with electrical apparatus.

31—Thursday. A superior day for the pursuit of art, music and the elegant avocations generally; deal in fancy goods and engage in decoration and adornment, but let all be prudent in the pursuits of pleasure; have no transactions relating to book publishing nor with reference to copyright or patents; correspondence is best deferred a little.

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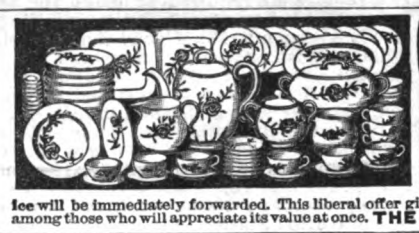
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COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

The Cape Nome Gold Fields.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



AS EVERYBODY, two or three years ago, was talking about the Klondike, so everybody this year will be talking about Cape Nome, for this new gold region promises to be richer in the yellow metal than the Klondike was. In the East, that is east of the Mississippi river, the people have a great many other things to think about, as well as being very far from the center of activity, but all along the Pacific coast one can hardly hear of anything else except Cape Nome. Gold was discovered there in 1898, but owing to its distance, and there being no easy way to get there except by ships, it took some time for the news of the discovery to be distributed. However, good news flies faster than any other kind, and last year the crowds began moving in that direction. They came by ship from points along the Pacific coast of the United States and Alaska, and also down the Yukon river from the Dawson country and other mining sections of the interior, and before the summer was over, it was estimated that as many as five thousand people had arrived in the neighborhood of Cape Nome. Of course with the coming of the people organization was necessary, and it began by the establishment of a post office as a center, and around it, extending along the shore, a town grew up which became known as Nome City. This name at first was applied only to that part of the town immediately around the post office, the western part of the place being called Anvil City, after a mountain several miles inland which looked something like a great anvil. The name did not stick however, and before the summer was over, Anvil City was swallowed up in Nome City or Nome, as it is usually called.

Nome City is situated on the north shore of Norton Sound, between the river Nome on the east, which empties into the sound at Cape Nome, and Snake river on the west, both being small streams coming down from the mountains. Tributary to these streams are a great many smaller branches, bearing all kinds of names, and along the banks of all of them gold has been found in greater or less quantities. The discovery of gold was made on Anvil creek, and very rich claims exist on that stream. The country about the gold diggings is absolutely without trees, but it is pleasant to the eye, as the whole earth is covered with beautifully green grass and moss. The mountains, lying back to the north, are not rugged, but are more like hills, and are green to their summits with this same grass and moss. Norton Sound is about one hundred miles wide here, and to the south and east a distance of one hundred and thirty-two miles is St. Michæl, which in the Klondike excitement was the point to which passengers and freight came on their way to the Klondike up the river Yukon, which empties into Behring Sea about seventy miles southwest of St. Michæl. During the past summer most of the shipping for Cape Nome came by way of St. Michæl, but this year ships will go directly to Nome. It has no harbor whatever, the water is very shallow, and one of the great problems to be solved is how to get goods and passengers from the ships to the shore when the water is at all rough. It is no easy task even in quiet weather, but when the winds blow, and they blow quite frequently and often with great severity, landing is impossible.. Last year boats going over from St. Michæl could promise no regularity, because they would have to wait sometimes for three or four days, before being able to get their cargoes ashore. It cost a pretty penny, too, for passengers at such times to get to land besides the risk of their lives, and I know of three men who paid four dollars and a half to be rowed ashore from their ship, which was not half a mile from land. Men who were willing to take great risks owned these small shore boats, and they made large sums carrying passengers. They sometimes dumped themselves and their passengers into the surf, but they scrambled out of the cold water, got some whiskey inside of them and some dry clothes on the outside and were ready to try the rough water again. Several cargoes of freight on lighters have not been so fortunate, and have been entirely lost in the surf. So it will be seen that the enthusiastic gold digger, even after he has come thousands of miles to his Land of Promise, is more or less likely to lose all on the very threshold of his labors.



THE CAPE NOME REGION.

Gold was discovered at Nome by three Laplanders, Lindberg, Lindbloom and Brynesten, who had come to Alaska as herders of the reindeer brought over to this country by the government, and they were at work at the reindeer station on Golovnin bay, but the gold mining in that region incited them to do some prospecting themselves, and one day on Anvil creek they "struck it rich." At first they did little as the weather was too cold, but in the following summer they worked successfully and had their friends come in and they took up all the claims they could get. The excitement was beginning to spread when one day in July last a man found gold in the sand on the beach and then the place went wild and everybody who could get tools came down to the shore and went to work on his own account as if it were free territory. At one time before the cold weather stopped the digging it was estimated that fifteen hundred miners were digging along the beach and taking out thirty thousand dollars a day. Whether these figures are correct or not, it is a known fact that the owners of claims up the creeks who were paying their men ten dollars a day, or a dollar an hour, lost nearly all their help, as the men quit working for wages as they could do better on the beach. It was the greatest "poor man's diggings" ever heard of, and as soon as the news of it got out a great rush set in coming chiefly from the up-Yukon district as there were many miners in that section who wanted to get out, and it was easy to come down the river and go over to Nome. The town now went ahead with a great rush and everybody had money. Labor was from ten to fifteen dollars a day, board of the simplest kind was a dollar a meal, and a plank to sleep on was a dollar a night. Three decent meals and a decent place to sleep, if they could be had, were worth ten dollars a day. Gambling dens, dance houses, variety shows, gin mills and all kinds of vice prevailed and the town was a fine example of what money can do when there is plenty of it. Lumber at a hundred and twenty-five dollars a thousand was brought over from St. Michæl and houses began springing up on the site of tents, and when the last ship left the city in November it had about twenty-five hundred people mostly under roof, and was filled with enthusiasm over what would take place when the season of 1900 opened. What has happened there during the past five months nobody knows for no word has come out. The winters last from November to June, and the cold is intense, the whole of Norton Sound being frozen over extending far down into Behring Sea. This vast field of ice must disappear before ships can get in from the outside, and it depends upon the season when this will be. Ordinarily navigation is open in June, but it has been known to remain closed until July.

It is expected that thirty thousand people will go to Cape Nome this summer from all parts of the United States, and already railroads and ship companies are making their preparations for the great rush. As many of the readers of COMFORT may be thinking of going to try their fortunes, possibly a little direction may be of value. Cape Nome is at least twenty-five hundred miles from the nearest point in the United States proper, (Seattle) and there are two ways of reaching it. One of these is by steamer direct, going by way of Dutch Harbor, and the other is by the inland passage to Skagway, thence by rail to Lake Bennett, thence down the Yukon, thence by steamer across Norton Sound. From ten to twelve days are required to make the trip by sea, and about two weeks by land. First class fare last season to St. Michæl was one hundred dollars, with twenty additional from St. Michæl over, and second class was seventy-five. No figures have been stated for this season, but they will be higher, though there are so many vessels going that competition may keep prices reasonable. The fare by land is much more, say $225, though it varies, and the land route may this season compete with the sea for the Cape Nome business. The points in the United States from which sailings will be made are San Francisco, Cal., Portland, Ore., Tacoma and Seattle, Wash., and the Southern Pacific, the Union and Central Pacific, the Northern Pacific and the Great Northern are the railroads leading to the points of departure. Seattle by long odds is the choice of starting points and four-fifths of the travel is from there. Nobody can say exactly when navigation will open, but Seattle newspapers have for months contained advertisements of ships sailing as early as May 10th. Right here begins the gold hunter's risk for he may be held back a month by bad weather. At the same time it is important that he get there soon, not only because the season is short, but because others will get ahead of him and take the best things.

And now as to claims. There are none to be had except by purchase, because everything for forty miles along the shore and a dozen miles back into the country has been taken long ago. Claims or parts of claims may be bought, however, and these sometimes prove fortunes to their owners. Just what the beach diggings will amount to next season no one can say. It is generally believed that gold may be found along the entire coast for a hundred and fifty miles, in which event there will be a good chance for everybody. But all the money is not made in gold digging and the shrewd trader with a little money and a whole lot of knowledge of what is needed by the miners can feather his nest well. He must find out though before he tries, if somebody is not there ahead of him. Ship load after ship load of all kinds of supplies are being got ready in Seattle and Tacoma and Portland and 'Frisco to make the rush as soon as possible to meet the demand that must exist among those twenty-five hundred people who have been shut up all winter on canned goods, to say nothing of the thousands who are going there depending on somebody to provide for them, and if any man in the East expects to do anything in trading at Nome he will have to get up very early in the morning. A much safer way would be for everybody to remain at home and not bother about the fortune that they might make, but of course nobody will take good advice until it is too late.

As to the fortunes made at Nome, it is estimated that four millions of dollars in gold came out last season, and this was pretty fairly distributed, as such things go. The Lindberg claims have led all others, and it was reported that for a time they were yielding a thousand dollars an hour, which is no doubt an exaggeration, though the properties are enormously valuable. Hundreds of men have come out with from a thousand to five or six thousand each in dust, and several fortunes have been made in trading and in contracting. In conclusion it may be said that there is nothing quite so pleasing as gain, but generally a man will be better off to remain in the States.



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MAY~1900 PRICE 5 CENTS
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COMFORT

THE KEY TO A MILLION AND A QUARTER HOMES

NEW YORK AUGUSTA, MAINE. BOSTON

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The following conditions govern the awarding of cash prizes for Nutshell Stories, and the manuscripts of such writers only as have complied with all these requirements will receive consideration.

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1. *Only persons who are regular paid up yearly subscribers to "Comfort" and who send with every manuscript at least two yearly subscribers (together with 50 cents to pay for each subscriber so sent) may compete for the prizes.*

2. *All contributions must have the number of words they contain plainly noted thereon in addition to the writer's full name and address with nom de plume if desired; must be written on one side of the paper only, enclosed in the same envelope as the letter and remittance for new subscriptions, and addressed to* EDITOR NUTSHELL STORY CLUB *care of* COMFORT, AUGUSTA, MAINE.

3. *All stories must be* strictly original *with the contributors, and must not have appeared in print before. Competitors may write upon any subject, whether based upon fact, fancy or fiction—of adventure, love, war, peace; of city or country life, or of experiences on land or sea—but no story must contain more than 2,000 or less than 1,000 words.*

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PRIZE WINNERS FOR MAY.

Geo. H. Smith, First Prize.
Everett McNeil, Second Prize.
Anna B. Patten, Third Prize.
F. E. Burnham, Fourth Prize.
Burton McPhail, Fifth Prize.

The Kaffir Runner's Message.

A STORY OF THE SIEGE OF KIMBERLEY.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY GEORGE H. SMITH.

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THE ROAR of a great gun mounted on a hill far out beyond the line of defences about Kimberley was followed by a mass of dirt thrown into the air within the city limits. A young woman and a British officer who stood at an upper window of a house in the city watched the cloud of dust which marked the spot where the shot had struck.

"Doesn't that make you wish you had gone to the Cape when you could, Alice?" the man asked.

"No," said the woman. "I stayed because I wanted to; and I am glad I did.

"For one thing," she added, slipping one hand inside the officer's arm, "you are here. Then, too, I really can do good here. If you do not believe that, just come to the hospital and see for yourself."

"I know," said the man. "I thought only of myself. It was selfish of me, perhaps; but no man could like to have the first year of his married life ended with his wife a target for the shots of a besieging enemy."

"I am no more a target than you are, Edward; really not so much, since so much of your time must be spent in the forts.

"That means you must go, now, I suppose," she said a moment later, as a bugle sounded in the street outside the house.

"No," said the officer. "I do not go on duty regularly, for two hours yet. Something is the matter. It may be another assault. God grant not, now, for the men are too weak to meet it properly. I must go out and see what it is. Don't stay here, Alice," he said. "It is too dangerous. Do go down into the bomb-proof in the garden."

"I can't bear it there, it is so dark and stuffy," the woman replied; but she followed the officer from the room.

At the door of the house they heard the bugle call nearer, sounding like a solo sung above the bass of the besieging guns. An officer, coming down the street, saluted and said, "Captain Adney, my orders are to see that all the women and children are sent down into the mines. A shell has penetrated a bomb-proof off Victoria street killed all but two of the persons sheltered there. The shafts of the mine have been opened by the Company, and women and children are already being lowered to the third level."

"But the hospital!" the woman exclaimed.

"The orders are to leave the hospital for the present, although a portion of one of the buildings there has been destroyed this morning."

Mrs. Adney pointed to the nurse's badge upon her arm, and the man bowed. "Are there any other women in this house?" he asked.

"No."

The man raised his hand to his hat and passed on, to pound with the butt of a revolver upon the door of the next house on the street.

Captain Adney and his wife walked towards Headquarters. At each cross street they met women and children hurrying towards the diamond mines. The third level was two hundred feet below the surface, and would furnish perfect protection. There were several shafts going down to it, and even if all of these should be disabled one extremity of the level opened upon the great central excavation of the mines, so that there would be no danger that the refugees would be penned up in the bowels of the earth.

The sound of the exhaust of a steam engine rising sharp and regular above all the other noises showed that the machinery at the mouth of the mine had been started and that the descent had begun.

The officer and his wife followed the sound of the engine until they came to the open space into which some of the mine shafts opened. While they stood there watching the strange scene before them a man hurried past them, and going to the mouth of a shaft to which entrance was made only by a ladder, climbed down into the hole and disappeared.

"Dr. LeClois does not speak to us," said Captain Adney, with a little laugh. "What do you suppose is the reason?"

"Don't, Edward," said his wife, her cheeks growing red in spite of herself. "What is he going there for?" she asked, a moment later, and then added with a touch of scorn in her voice, "Perhaps he is seeking shelter with the women and children."

"You are harder on him than I am," her husband said, with the complaisance which a man can feel towards a defeated rival whose love his wife has rejected for his own. "You know he is the Company's chief engineer. That is the shaft which leads to the first level. Possibly he has been sent down to see if that also will be suitable for a retreat. I don't think it will, though. It is much nearer to the surface, and extends in a more dangerous direction, quite under our line of defences, in fact.

"I must go, now," he added. "I hate to leave you to go to the hospital. I wish you were down there, safe with the others."

"You don't mean that, Edward," said the woman, standing erect and looking her husband bravely in the eyes. "You would not have your wife less brave than yourself."

"No," said Captain Adney, after a moment. "I would not. Good-by!" and then, after he had kissed her, "You have your pistol?"

"Yes."

"Good-by, then!"

"Good-by!"

That afternoon a wounded Kaffir runner was brought into the ward in the hospital in which Mrs. Adney was working.

"The General sent him," the men who bore the stretcher explained, when the surgeon in charge asked why they brought a Kaffir to that crowded institution. "He has frequently carried government messages."

"He will die," the surgeon said, turning the man's face so that he could look at it. "Put him there," pointing to an empty bed.

An hour later the runner was dead. Mrs. Adney, raising the dead man's hands to fold them upon his breast, found one hand tightly clenched on something held within it. Opening the stiffening fingers she took out a folded paper and a rough stone which a year's residence in Kimberley had educated her to recognize at once as an uncut diamond of great value. Ordinarily she would have sent the paper unopened to the surgeon in charge, but the presence of the diamond excited her curiosity so that she unfolded the paper. She read, written in Dutch:

"The increased fire is having effect. There is more confusion here, and more men are being kept on the defences. At exactly five o'clock to-day I will fire the charge in the first level of the mine. The charge is placed directly under the line of forts on the east side of the town. Have your forces massed opposite that point, ready to storm the breach which will be made. L. C."

The Kaffir runner was a traitor, bought with the gem!

"L. C." There was no doubt who had written the message. LeClois was a traitor, too; doubly so, because he was one of the few men who were trusted to have access to the mine. The instinctive aversion which she had had for the man even when he had been an earnest suitor for her love had not been ungrounded, then. He meant to destroy part of the mine, and by doing so open the city to the enemy.

One traitor was dead, before his message could be delivered. There would be no hostile force gathered ready to spring through the break in the line of defences. The other man lived, though, and might yet do his part of the horrible contract.

Good God! "The east side of the town!" It was there that her husband's command was stationed; and he was on duty now. She tore a watch from the breast of her nurse's gown. The hands marked ten minutes before five o'clock.

A sentinel guarding a lane which led into the open place in which the entrances to the diamond mines were located, halted a woman running towards him.

"Don't stop me!" she cried. "I must pass! I am Mrs. Adney. I am a nurse;" and pointed to the badge upon her sleeve.

The man lowered his musket slowly, uncertain, and the woman sprang past him before the weapon had reached the ground. The point of the bayonet caught in her gown and tore it, but she gave no heed.

As she ran across the first few rods of open space her eyes and mind seemed conscious of everything. Over there on the other side of the square were the shafts of the third level. The machinery was still, now, because all of the refugees were safe below. The constant rumble of great guns, and occasionally a crash nearer at hand showed what danger those who had fled the town had escaped. Over there, toward the hills from which the sound of the firing came, were the east side forts, the British flag waving over them. Her husband was there. Nearer to her than anything else was the opening which led to the first mine level.

Even while the woman ran, a man came from the engine house and walked swiftly to the opening into the mine. Grasping the ladder with both hands he stepped upon it and started to descend. A moment later the lower half of his body had disappeared in the earth.

For an instant the woman could see nothing, her head swam so, except a blur of red and blue over where the flag floated against the hills. Then everything was clear again, and she had raised her pistol, aimed at the man in the mouth of the mine, and fired.

It was late that night before Captain Adney, hanging over the bed on which his wife lay, saw her eyes open to a sense of consciousness. Even then hours passed before she was strong enough to tell him how she came to be found fainting in the public square, and then, shuddering in his arms, to tell him what she had done.

Dr. LeClois was found at the foot of the shallow mine shaft, not dead, but shot through one arm, and with a leg broken by his fall. A pocket battery and an electric connection with the charge at the end of the level showed what he had meant to do. When Kimberley was relieved he was one of the prisoners turned over to the British forces.

Weeks afterwards, when life in the city had returned to its normal conditions, there were invitations issued to a unique function to be held at the home of a high official of the diamond company. Between applauding lines of men and women Captain Adney led his wife to where, at the head of the long room, there stood beside the official a gray haired English general whose name is known around the world.

Perhaps the men present—army men, at least—would have cared most for the words which the general spoke; but the women who were there thought less of what they heard than of what they saw, for when the officer had finished speaking and Mrs. Adney bowed her head before him, he dropped around her neck a heavy gold chain from which hung, cut, now, and gleaming superbly, the great diamond which she had taken from the dead Kaffir runner's hand.

A UNIQUE DEFENSE.

A Tale of Pioneer Days in Kentucky.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY EVERETT MCNEIL.

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WHEN I was a young boy I went on a visit with mother to her old home in Kentucky. Grandfather's comfortable farm house of solid stone masonry stood on the very spot where his father, shortly after the close of the Revolutionary War, had built his humble pioneer's log cabin and begun his battle for life and competency with nature and the Indians. The moment I entered the quaint old parlor my eyes eagerly sought the broad mantel above the wide fireplace. "Mother, there it is!" I shouted; and running to the mantel I climbed upon a chair and stared with all my eyes at what to me was the most interesting object in all the great universe, a grotesquely shrunken and wrinkled pumpkin jack-o'-lantern, enclosed in a large bell jar.

Mother and the others laughed at my boyish excitement; but grandfather placed a wrinkled, toil-worn hand upon my shoulder, and said:

"Henry, that withered bit of pumpkin tells the story of the dangers and hardships we, who rescued this beautiful country from the wild beasts and yet wilder Indians, endured that you might enjoy the blessings of its beauty and fertility. Never forget what you owe to the strong men and women who laid the foundations of your country's greatness."

My grandfather was a tall, stern old man, who, in his young manhood had fought Indians and killed bears and panthers and deer not a mile from where we were now standing; and now, to be thus particularly noticed by this grand old hero, made my heart bound and somehow gave me courage to inquire:

"Please, grandfather, won't you tell me the story of the pumpkins and Thundercloud and how you saved the old home from the Indians when a boy no bigger than I?" I had heard mother tell the story often, but I wanted it from grandfather's own lips. For a minute or more the old man was silent, then he began:

"Henry, when I was a boy of your age, a rough log cabin stood where this house stands, and the surrounding hills and valleys were covered with a heavy growth of timber, the home of deer and bears and panthers and Indians. Our only neighbor lived three miles away and the nearest town was Dodd's Settlement, some fifteen miles up the river.

"Now, as to that pumpkin story, it happened like this: That fall we had a big crop of corn and pumpkins and, after the corn had all been husked and the pumpkins gathered and placed in the cellar, father determined to take a load of corn to Dodd's Settlement and sell or exchange it for provisions and other needed household supplies. Mother wished to go too; and it was decided to leave your Great-Aunt Eliza and me at home alone. I was then thirteen years old, but tall and strong for my age, and Eliza was twelve. We did not fear being left alone. In fact, we rather enjoyed the thought of being our own masters.

"Accordingly, early one bright cool October morning, father yoked up the oxen, and he and mother started on their long ride to Dodd's Settlement. They did not expect to get back until late that night, for fifteen miles and return is a long day's drive for a yoke of oxen.

"After father and mother had gone Eliza and I did what work there was to be done, and then we played.

"Along about three o'clock in the afternoon, when we were beginning to tire of our play, Eliza suddenly exclaimed: 'O, John, I know what we'll do! Let's make a couple of jack lanterns, the most frightful-looking things we can do, and scare papa and mamma when they come home!'

"The idea at once took my fancy; and, going to the cellar, we picked out two of the largest pumpkins we could find, and began carving them into the most hideous and grotesque semblances of the human head that our skill and fancy could evoke. In about an hour the two heads were finished, and their grinning mouths and great eyes did full credit to the skill of our hands and the vividness of our imaginations. Then I fastened each jack lantern to the end of a long pole, nailed a strip of wood across each pole just below the pumpkins for the shoulders, and the skeletons of our hobgoblins were complete.

"We had great fun dressing up the two



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figures. Around the shoulders of one we hung a long white sheet, and upon its head we fastened mother's great Shaker sunbonnet. This was to be the giantess. The other had a bear skin thrown around its shoulders, the hair of a horse's tail tacked to the back of its head, and a fierce mustache and long chin whiskers made from the beard of corn. For a hat we inverted mother's great wooden butter-bowl. I do not think I ever saw two such frightful-looking things as Eliza and I made, when we hoisted these figures up over our heads in such a manner that our faces and shoulders were concealed by the falling bear skin and the sheet. It almost frightened us to look at each other; and we laughed when we thought of the great scare we would give father and mother on their return.

"By the time we had completed all these preparations the sun was near setting, and I had to go to the pasture after the cows. We stood the two figures, with everything ready for lighting up, in a corner of the house, and I started after the cows while Eliza busied herself getting supper.

"I had begun to let down the bars when I heard the clatter of horse's hoofs behind me, and a man on a great foam-covered black horse dashed up. 'Thundercloud and his Indians are murdering the Whites! Tell your father to fly instantly to the Settlement!' the man shouted, dug his spurs into his horse's flanks, and was gone, before I had recovered from my surprise and horror sufficiently to utter a word.

"For a moment I stood still and trembled. No one knew better than I what an Indian outbreak meant. Four years before I had seen the mutilated remains of an entire family that had been massacred by the Indians, and the horror of the sight still lived in my memory. I thought of the absence of father and mother, of the fast gathering darkness, of Eliza alone in the house with no one to protect her but me, and of my own helplessness. Then I dropped the bar I still held in my hand with a bang, and started for the house. As I ran I saw a ruddy glow lighting up the eastern skies, and I knew that the Indians were burning our neighbor's house only three miles away. When I came near to the house I heard Eliza singing and the rattle of the supper dishes as she placed them on the table; and the sound cut my heart like a knife. 'Indians!' I shouted, as I sprang through the doorway, and, banging the door shut, shot the strong bolts into place and let fall the great bar of hickory across the middle of the door.

"Once safe within the house and a loaded rifle in my hands my courage began to come back; and, in low trembling voices, Eliza and I planned how we would defend our lives and our home. We both understood the hopelessness of our defense, unless rescue came suddenly; and yet I do not think a thought of surrendering without a struggle entered the head of either of us. There were stern children bred in those days. We had two rifles and Eliza could shoot nearly as well as I, and we hoped to keep the Indians back for a short time; and then, if help did not come, we would have done our best. Eliza took up her station at the loopholes in the back part of the house, and I watched for the Indians at the front and the sides. We had no light in the room, save a dull fire that smoldered in the fireplace.

"An hour or more passed. It was now dark, and the silence of the wilderness was all around us. We could just distinguish the trunks of the trees in the surrounding forest. One of the trees appeared to move, then another. 'Quick, Eliza, come quick! Here they are!' I whispered. In a moment Eliza was peering through a loophole by my side. One, two, three—a couple of dozen or more shadowy forms stole from out the darkness of the woods and stood in a group on the edge of the forest looking in our direction. Mechanically I touched the powder horn by my side. Its lightness startled me. I pulled out the stopper and turned the horn bottom side up. It was empty! We had no powder. Father had taken the last few loads we had with him. The two charges in our rifles were our only defense.

"'Eliza,' I whispered, 'we are lost. There is no powder, only the charges in our guns.' For answer she put her arms around my neck and kissed me.

"The Indians were now creeping toward the house. Twelve of them came two and two, bearing a heavy log between them with which to beat down the door. I glanced quickly around the room to see if there was anything we could place against it to give it greater strength. As I did so my eyes caught sight of the two jack lanterns, standing like hideous giants in the corner of the room.

"'Quick, Eliza!' I almost shouted. 'The jack lanterns! They are our only hope. We'll make the Indians think the cabin is inhabited by a couple of fire devils.' In a moment the lanterns were in our hands and our trembling fingers had lighted the candles. We hoisted the hideous figures up over our heads. In the dim light of the room the effect was frightful, terrible. To furnish a voice for the monsters I seized an old tin horn that hung on the wall, and was capable of making a noise like the bellowings of a dozen angry bulls.

"We did not have long to wait. For a minute all was silent without. Then we heard the rush of light footfalls; and the next instant the heavy log struck the door with the force of a battering ram, and knocked it flying off its hinges. With a blood-curdling war whoop the Indians rushed in through the breach, to be confronted by what appeared to their startled eyes like two hideous demons, shooting fire from nose and eyes and ears and with great fiery red mouths yawning to devour them. For one awful moment the braves stood stock-still, staring at us. I took a step toward them and blew a terrific blast on the horn. This was more than they could stand; and, with howls of fright, they tumbled through the shattered doorway, and darted away toward the forest. Eliza and I ran after them for a few rods, yelling and blowing the horn for all we were worth. When the last Indian had vanished in the woods, we returned inside the cabin and, throwing our arms around each other, shouted and danced and cried and laughed like two children gone mad.

"Something like an hour afterward father and a number of armed men rode up, expecting to find us murdered or carried off by the Indians; but we were safe.

"That," concluded grandfather, "is the way your great-aunt Eliza and I frightened off Thundercloud and his Indians with a couple of pumpkin jack lanterns and saved our lives and our home; and there, in that bell jar, is the very jack lantern I used."

THE FEMALE CRUSOE.

HOW SHE IS RESCUED FROM A SAD AND SOLITARY LIFE.

The prominent feature of the life of Defoe's hero, Robinson Crusoe, was its loneliness, its utter solitude. He was cut off from all contact with his fellows, condemned to live in a friendless solitude, unbroken by the sound of human speech or human laughter. It isn't distance and desert islands that make Crusoes. It is the solitariness of a life cut off from active participation in home duties and social pleasures; and it is this condition which makes the name Crusoe the fittest term to express the isolation and loneliness of many a woman's life.

A woman condemned to this foreign existence is like some soaring song bird, which, broken-winged by fate's cruel shaft, has henceforth to creep through life hugging the dull,



cold earth when it should be soaring to the sun and singing at Heaven's gates. In how many a home the wife creeps about like a wounded bird. She used to be so full of merriment. The song on her lips told her whereabouts as she flitted, bird like, from chamber to chamber, caring for the home nest. Now she rarely smiles. She never sings. She has dropped out of society, given up her church work, and become almost as much of a recluse as if she were the solitary tenant of some far-off island.

THE WORK OF RESCUE.

It is a fact that tens of thousands of women are cut off from a full share in life's duties and pleasures by diseases peculiar to their sex. But over against that fact is to be set the other fact that thousands of such women are being rescued from their miserable condition and reinstated in the full enjoyment of all of life's duties and privileges by the use of Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription.

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Doctor Pierce's Favorite Prescription makes weak women strong, sick women well. It does this by curing the causes of womanly weakness and sickness. It acts as a perfect regulator of the periods. It dries the drains which undermine the strength. It heals the inflamed and ulcerated organs and cures female weakness. It strengthens the entire nervous system by its nerve-nourishing ingredients, restores the appetite and brings refreshing sleep. It prepares the wife for motherhood, gives her robust health, and makes the baby's advent practically painless. It increases the nutritive secretions so that the mother is able to nurse and nourish her child with comfort and content.

"Favorite Prescription" is absolutely free from alcohol, and contains neither opium, cocaine, nor any other narcotic.

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There is no similar offer of free consultation by letter which has behind it so great an institution as the Invalids' Hotel and Surgical Institute, to which Dr. Pierce is chief consulting physician and surgeon, assisted by a staff of nearly a score of eminent specialists.

For this reason this offer of free consultation by letter should not be confounded with those offers of "*free medical advice*," put out by men or women who are not physicians, and therefore utterly unqualified to treat disease. True, they can give *free advice* on medicine, as they could give it on questions of law or any other subject. But the advice is worthless, coming from persons ignorant of the principles and practice of medicine. An undertaker could give "medical advice," but it would be as an undertaker, not as a doctor. A great deal of so-called "free medical advice" is as suspicious as an undertaker's would be. If you write for medical advice to man or woman be sure first of all that you are writing to a doctor, trained by experience and licensed by law to practice the profession of healing.

If you ask your dealer for Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription don't be put off with a substitute. Buy medicine as you buy flour. Don't be put off with an inferior grade which won't do the work required. "Favorite Prescription" cures. A cure can't be expected of an imitation.

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WITH FEET OF CLAY.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY ANNA B. PATTEN.

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THE MINISTER'S wife was dead. There were whispered conversations on the street corner and interchanges of regret on the front stoop when the news had spread through the village, while the door-knocker of the parsonage had resounded to sympathetic calls.

No mark of respect was denied the departed. On the day of the funeral, all of the parishioners gathered in the stuffy front-room, where the tired little woman lay quiet, at last, with her toil-worn hands folded on her breast. A brother clergyman had come from ten miles back, to utter eulogistic remarks over the deceased; the church choir rendered its choicest selections, and the procession was the longest that had ever wended its way over the hill to the country cemetery.

Yet, perhaps, there were few women present who sincerely mourned for this weary worker in the vineyard, for the unmarried contingent of the community had decided, long ago, that their brainy pastor was unequally yoked in marriage. With his rare mental endowments he had risen step by step, leaving his wife on the lower plane of intellectual standing. Every spinster member of the congregation who listened to the eloquent outbursts from the pulpit, openly expressed her regret that such a man should be tied for life to one so lamentably his inferior. Each one of these devoted followers of his words considered herself as the person, who under favoring circumstances would have been a fitting helpmeet, as well as more congenial companion, in the sacred labor of saving the human race.

So, now that the leader of the flock was at last free from bondage, it could not be truthfully said that those personally interested regretted the loss. To be sure, a few had a little twinge of conscience, on recalling a severe illness, when the minister's wife had come to their bedside with her soothing presence, for in times of sorrow she had never failed to appear with her soft touch and gentle accents.

Of course, these things were commendable in their place—quite necessary, in fact—but the position of a minister's wife required other qualities, such as a dignified presence and mental superiority, in which the past incumbent had been sorely lacking.

This truly onerous position had suddenly been made vacant, through Providential intervention, and from the moment that the startling news had been sown broadcast, it became a secret query in several anxious minds as to who would be selected to fill the vacancy, after a proper season of mourning had passed by The pastor, seemingly unconscious of this undercurrent of feeling, continued his accustomed duties regardless of these rival aspirants to his favor. He assumed a very becoming air of grief which appeared to be inconsolable, but there is nothing, perhaps, so pregnable as a pastor's heart.

This representative of the persuasion was not proof against assault in the shape of feminine flattery, for he had a good share of masculine vanity. Besides, his present housekeeper was extravagant, the children were getting unruly; so within a year, he selected Miss Serena Spear to share his fortunes, for better or worse, and occupy the seat of state in the pastor's pew, thus making one lady supremely happy and six others correspondingly miserable.

Mrs. Serena entered upon her duties with subdued enthusiasm, resolved to show the whole community what a model minister's wife should be. In the bliss of the honeymoon, under the exaltation of her hard-earned victory, this seemed easy of accomplishment; but after that stage of illusion had worn away, she found several stumbling blocks in her path. The feats of the first wife had a way of rising up out of the past and facing her. She came to the conclusion that that little woman's strength must have been herculean to accomplish the amount of work she did in one day. No wonder she dropped by the wayside.

A dignified presence and mental superiority might be very graceful attributes abroad, but they count for little in sewing on children's buttons and repairing the family wardrobe; in answering sick calls, settling disputes, and the thousand and one trifles that made up the sum of her daily existence.

Worst of all, she found that hourly contact with an idol is apt to dull the ardor of first enchantment. Not that her husband had deteriorated intellectually, for his sermons were brilliant masterpieces still, but somehow she had not expected to find petty characteristics in such a superior being. Then, all her attempts to bring herself into harmony with his

line of work met with such a surprising setback. If she suggested sitting in the study while he was composing his next Sunday's sermon, or shyly asked to be permitted to look at the rough draft before revision, he seemed to regard it in the light of interference and implied by his answer that she was only required to have supervision over the domestic part of the establishment.

If she started some weighty discussion, or sought to ascertain his views as to some public question of the day, he confined himself to mere generalities and all hope of being a coworker in his literary labors seemed impossible of accomplishment. This evasion and lack of confidence was a sore trial to her pride, but after continued repulses she drifted into the place he had allotted her, that of a domestic nonentity. From this humble ground she still looked upward, trying to blind her eyes to certain weaknesses, incompatible with true nobility of character, and keep her idol on the pedestal where she had placed it; but some phases of private life could not be passed over without serious consideration, and one day the veil of the temple was rent asunder and the glaring light of revelation cast within the shrine.

That morning she had been rumaging in the attic, clearing out the rubbish which had accumulated from year to year. She came across several barrels filled with musty, yellow-stained sermons, standing in the corner. Her husband could hardly have any need of these antiquated thoughts with his plentiful storehouse of brains to draw upon. Without any further consideration of the subject, she delivered them over to the teamster for disposal as waste paper and went on with her housewifely process of sifting the wheat from the chaff.

That evening she was sitting by the centre table, sorting the basket of weekly stockings. Her husband had just left her and gone to his study. This was the night when he selected the theme for the next Sabbath discourse and she had learned her lesson by this time, and left him undisturbed to his task.

Very soon she heard his steps returning hastily across the entryway, and he appeared on the threshold, looking strangely flushed and agitated.

"Who has been in the attic, disturbing my sermons!"

"Sermons, dear? Oh, yes, I let Humphrey take them away. They smelt so musty I didn't think it healthy to have them around the house——"

She stopped suddenly, for her husband had sunk into the nearest chair and was staring at her in a helpless, confused way.

"You cannot mean that you want them—Leo—nard—those old sermons—that you—*need*—them!"

He did not answer. He did not seem to hear her; but there was a look in his eyes as if he were face to face with his real self, at last, and she turned away, sickened by the sight.

* * * * * *

Six months later the Reverend J. Leonard Fairbanks sent in his resignation. Interest in the popular pastor had seemed to subside after his second marriage. Whether from combined resentment at the slight thereby inflicted upon others, or because of his rapid decline in rhetorical effort and brilliant composition, it is not safe to say. His people had been fed on such rich fare in the past that they rebelled, perhaps, at the tame, spiritless essays, suddenly served out to them. As a consequence, that gentleman found the atmosphere so uncomfortable that a swift severing of his connection with the church seemed to be the only alternative.

The sewing- circle met that afternoon, and as the pastor's wife had decided from motives of delicacy not to appear, there was ample opportunity for discussion of the important news.

"Well, that's the whole gist of the matter," said Mrs. Humphrey Weeks, when the subject had been considered from every point of view. "Mis Fairbanks, she give my husband them barrels to cart away, along with a heap of other things. I just thought I'd look 'em over to see if there was anything worth saving, an' there was lots of other truck sides the sermons. Why it seems the parson's fust wife pretty nigh supported the fam'ly on what she made, scribblin' for the papers and magazines. Just to think that meek little woman writ all them beautiful sermons—eddicated at a college, too——!"

"Serena couldn't do that," said a young girl, picking up the stitches she had lost while listening to the story. She had been a close second in the race for the prize. "But then," magnanimously, "she would do it, if she could. Serena's too proud. She'd wash floors first, for a living."

"I guess it'll come to that in the end," the last speaker snapped her thread vindictively. She had not even stood a chance of success with the disenthroned idol. "He'll never get another call, that's sure; and a flock of stepchildren to support, besides one of her own. Well, she made her bed, and she must lie on it!"

TOM HAWLEY'S GREAT LEAP.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY F. E. BURNHAM.

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JOSEPHINE LaCroix had picked Tom Hawley up somewhere on her travels; cared for him when he was unable to care for himself, and now was teaching him somewhat of the art that had made her famous—was showing Tom how to perform on the trapeze, walk the tight-rope and do a score of other remarkable feats with which she had astonished the world.

Tom was sixteen years of age, though he looked all of twenty. Madame LaCroix was proud of him, and well she might be, for a more manly and handsome young man is seldom seen. She talked her plans over with him and asked his advice as though he were her senior, rather than twenty years younger than she.

There was one person who traveled with the circus of whom Josephine was afraid; feared lest in a moment of jealousy and anger he would commit some act of violence which would imperil her life. Jean DeBarre was his name, an acrobat who had made her life miserable in many ways since her first connection with the circus.

Tom was well aware of the facts of the case and kept his eyes open when Josephine performed, confident that at such a time was she in greatest danger at his hands.

Tom had progressed so well under Josephine's instruction that they had performed jointly and shared tremendous applause. Josephine, shot out of a cannon, would catch a trapeze at the top of the tent, and leaping through the air, would catch Tom's hands, and from there turn a triple somersault to a trapeze far below, from there reaching the top of the tent by a series of wonderful maneuvers, performing more and more daring feats as the show progressed.

Among other things Josephine danced on the tight-rope, discarding the customary lifenet, perfectly at ease while dancing on that slender rope fifty feet above the ring.

Jean DeBarre muttered something under his breath as Josephine passed him one evening on her way to the ring from the dressing-tent; his words and looks frightened her, and she spoke to Tom as they passed into the great tent.

"Keep a sharp watch to-night," said she as she parted from the young man, "Jean has been drinking and is ugly. Don't forget, Tom."

Merrily the circus progressed. Josephine and Tom had gone through with several performances, delighting the people. Twice had Josephine found opportunity to speak with Tom and each time had she said something about DeBarre and her fear of bodily harm. Tom had tried to laugh it off, thinking to dispel the thought from her mind, though he had misgivings himself.

Josephine was standing on the tight-rope, waving her hands to the people, her back to Tom. Tom, some thirty feet above her, watched her graceful movements from time to time as opportunity offered, for he was striving to acquire some of her marvelous grace.

Suddenly he became aware of another who was watching her with intentness, one who was not of the people below. On the other side of the tent where the dressing-tent was pitched a dark, sullen face was outlined against the white canvas. The face was the face of DeBarre.

Suddenly a knife flashed, its gleaming blade reflecting the arc lights of the circus, flashing almost like a diamond.

Tom saw that flash of light; saw the vindictive face of DeBarre outlined on the white canvas and devined his purpose. He saw Josephine on the rope beneath him waving her hands to the mass of humanity.

In the merest fraction of a second he had gathered himself for a leap—the leap of his life. The vast throng saw the change that had come over him. Scarcely had they noted his quivering form when he shot from the trapeze like an arrow from a drawn bow.

A startled cry issued from a hundred throats as they saw him flying toward Josephine, Josephine with her back to him, unconscious of his flight from the trapeze above.

The knife in the hands of DeBarre flashed again as Tom shot past Josephine; flashed and severed the rope that supported the woman.

As Tom passed, his right arm encircled Josephine's waist and together they sped downward toward the trapeze twenty-five feet below. Even as the woman's feet left the rope it dropped to the ring.

Josephine, conscious of her peril, knew that their lives depended upon her own assistance and submitting, permitted herself to be borne onward with no resistance.

As one body the people rose to their feet as the two swept downward.

"They'll miss it," shouted one man.

"He has done it," shouted another.

Sure enough. Like lightning Tom's left hand shot out, reaching high above his head, seizing the bar of the trapeze as they flew by. Instantly Josephine followed the movement herself, Tom loosing his hold, she drawing herself upon the bar, Tom attempting to do so himself, but failing.

Josephine looked down and saw Tom's left arm hanging helpless by his side. Seizing his right arm, with which he had laid hold of the bar the instant his other arm snapped, she drew him up by her side, where they stood bowing to the people, though they felt little like doing so under the circumstances.

Quickly a rope was brought, and in less time than it takes to tell it the two were safely in the ring, retreating toward the dressing-tent.

Meanwhile swift justice had been meted out to the villain who had sought Josephine's life. Standing there high above the ground, partially hidden by the great folds of the tent, he had failed to note that the rope on which he was standing, likewise secured Josephine's tight-rope. The instant he drew his keen knife across the tight-rope his own foothold was lost. Downward he plunged, striking on a pile of boards, breathing his last before Josephine and Tom reached the dressing-tent.

Somewhere to-day Tom is performing, no doubt, making marvelous leaps from trapeze to trapeze, but it is doubtful if he ever has, or ever will perform as he did that night when he saved Josephine's life.

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REVERSIBLE COLLAR CO., Dept. K, Boston, Mass.

RUBENS DANTE TASSO MURILLO ANGELO RAPHAEL



A BURGLAR PRO TEM.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY BURTON MCPHAIL.

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JOHN BALDWIN, a detective in the employ of a detective agency of Boston, was resting one afternoon at his home on Longwood Avenue, when his doorbell rang; answering the summons he admitted a middle-aged gentleman. A stranger, courtly in his bearing, evidently a man of the world.

GUSTAV LUETCHMANN,
Berlin, Germany.
VOCAL TEACHER.

"I note that you have a room to let," he said, handing the detective the above card; "I desire to engage one in a private family where I can rest for a few weeks from the annoyance and bustle of a hotel."

The detective was favorably impressed by the stranger and readily showed him to the one room he wished to rent.

"A beautiful room," said he in dulcet tones, "beautiful; will have my trunks sent up at once."

This was going a trifle faster than the detective had expected. He had not seen his wife as yet, and the letting of the room being her suggestion, as the rent was to be her own, naturally she was the one to be consulted. Before he was aware of it, the detective had accepted the five dollar note which the stranger pressed into his hand. The upper front room was let.

The detective's wife merely saw the man as he descended the front steps, but one glance at his face told her all.

"That man's a rascal," said she, when her husband returned from the hall. "You have been deceived for once, John."

"You are certainly mistaken," said the detective, watching the man as he passed down the street. "He is a gentleman from the soles of his shoes to the crown of his head."

Nevertheless, the detective wondered as he stood there which was right—he or his wife.

That evening the professor returned and they had a good opportunity of studying him. They asked him to spend the evening with them, and a very enjoyable evening was passed. He possessed a fine tenor voice, and seated at the piano he played and sang several selections.

As the evening passed the detective's wife began to look with more favor on their lodger. Gradually that indescribable something that chills the person against whom it is directed, began to disappear, and as he sang her distrust gave place to confidence, and before the professor bade them good-night and retired to his room, he had won her respect and admiration; she stood where the detective had stood six hours previous.

The detective, however, thinking over the incidents of the day and evening, to his surprise, found a slight suspicion, of he knew not what, creeping into his mind, which had not departed when he arose the following morning.

At the rogues' gallery the detective spent a morning looking over the thousands of photographs, wondering if amongst them all was not the professor's likeness. He was going over them for the second time when his eye fell on one which he had passed over the first time; one taken in Germany, the likeness of a noted burglar and bank-robber. Hans Van Rueter, was the name it bore, and the description tallied with the professor's physiognomy, save that Rueter wore a beard, while Leutchmann sported merely a moustache.

"A fine tenor voice," read the description.

"That's the man," said the detective, "a beard is easily disposed of. Gustav Leutchmann is a knave."

Upon arriving home the detective learned from his wife that the professor had had a caller that morning. A crook, presumably, though one whom he could not size up from his wife's description. The following day he met him coming up the steps as he was leaving the house. If a crook, evidently a stranger in that part of the country, for his face was not to be found in the rogues' gallery.

That evening the detective learned that the same man was coming again the next morning, which information his wife had overheard as he parted from his friend, the professor.

Concealed in a closet adjoining the professor's room, the detective gleaned from the snatches of conversation which he overheard that the two men had planned to plunder his residence.

"Very well," said the detective to his wife, "very well, if they will loot my home, I shall assist professor Leutchmann in doing so. There is not another man in the city so familiar with the location of our valuables as myself."

The Professor and his pal had planned to do the job the following night. The detective prepared to do his work at the same time. How well he succeeded will be shown later.

The professor's friend wore a heavy black moustache, and glasses partially concealed his eyes. That afternoon the detective selected from his stock of disguises a false moustache that closely resembled Leutchmann's pal's. An overcoat similar to his he had not, but he planned something better than a substitute; he decided to wear the very overcoat worn by the man whom he was about to impersonate.

Two shrewd detectives guarded the approaches to Detective Baldwin's residence, with orders to arrest Leutchmann's pal as soon as he put in an appearance that night.

Detective Baldwin impatiently passed the evening at the station waiting the arrival of the detectives with their prisoner. A little after one in the morning they arrived. In less than three minutes Detective Baldwin was on his way, clad in the arrested man's overcoat, wearing his hat and glasses, and his "make up" completed by the false moustache.

Twice the detective passed his home, watching for the appearance of the professor. Presently the front door opened softly and the professor beckoned to the detective.

"Take off your shoes," he whispered in his ear, as the detective tiptoed up the steps.

He obeyed.

Noiselessly he followed him into the house and waited for the professor's next move.

It was evident that Leutchmann had explored the house prior to that night, for he led the way with no hesitation straight to the sideboard where the silverware stood.

There is a strange fascination about robbing one's own house, and the detective entered into the plot with interest.

"Baldwin hasn't been out to-night," said Leutchmann, "if he's been asleep all the evening we must take special care not to waken him."

The detective assented.

As yet Detective Baldwin had done nothing in the way of plundering, and Leutchmann suggested that he ransack the bedroom.

Rapidly was the ludicrous side of the situation growing upon the detective, and when he entered his wife's room and found her stifling a laugh in the bed-clothes, he nearly gave all away by laughing aloud.

With no opposition and absolutely no danger of being disturbed, naturally, he easily secured his watch, several pieces of jewelry and joined Leutchmann in the dining-room.

Highly did he compliment the detective for his cleverness in thus securing so much of value without disturbing the owner.

Quickly the two left the house, and without, a carriage was awaiting the professor's appearance. As the detective stepped into the vehicle he glanced sharply at the driver's cap and learned his number.

Through this street and that of the city the carriage whirled and finally stopped before an old building in a low quarter of the city.

Without question the detective followed the professor's lead, climbing a rickety flight of stairs to a dingy room.

As the professor stooped to light a lamp the detective slipped his hand into his own hip-pocket.

"This has been a clever piece of work," said Leutchmann, turning to the detective.

"I think so, Herr Rueter," responded the detective, quietly.

With ashen face Leutchmann, or rather, Rueter, turned to his companion. He found himself peering into the barrel of a forty-four calibre revolver.

Half an hour later he was behind the bars.

To-day he is serving a ten years' sentence in state's prison.

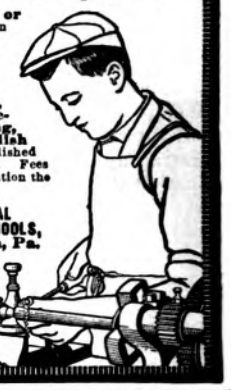
The cabman, whom it was evident had had his "eye teeth cut," received a six months' term in the penitentiary.

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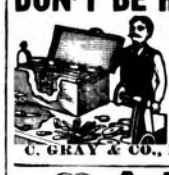
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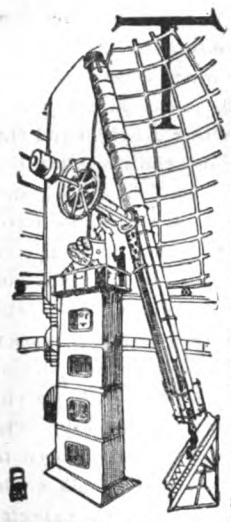
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THE SUN'S ECLIPSE IN 1900.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



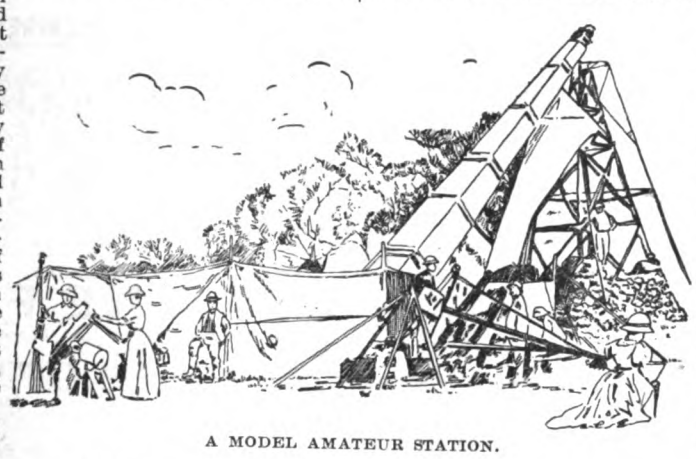
TELESCOPE OBSERVATORY.

THE fact that the eclipse of the sun which is to take place May 28th is to be total and the finest ever witnessed in America is calling much attention to the subject of eclipses. Without entering into deep scientific explanations or confusing theories, it is the purpose of COMFORT in this article to give a few interesting facts about this and other eclipses of the sun which will enable the readers to witness this phenomenon of nature with a clear understanding of what it all means.

Historically speaking eclipses have had considerable share in events in many lands. In the days of ignorance and superstition eclipses were considered as evidences of the wrath of the gods and caused widespread terror. Tradition often ascribed connection between eclipses and events of national importance. This is particularly true in the Latin and Greek classics, as for instance, Plutarch declares that an eclipse attended the birth of Romulus (the founder of Rome) and Xenephon describes the capture of the Median city of Larissa by the Persians because the gods brought an eclipse of the sun to terrify the citizens.

Gradually increasing knowledge of the heavens allowed astronomers to predict eclipses, and the terror they formerly inspired has gradually given way excepting in ignorant and superstitious minds where such phenomena are still ascribed to supernatural causes. An English Ambassador to China tells of an eclipse which kept the Emperor and his Mandarins for a whole day devoutly praying to their gods that the Moon might not be eaten up by the great dragon which was hovering around her. The next day a pantomime was performed showing the battle between the Moon and the dragon in which three hundred priests, bearing lanterns on long sticks, danced and capered around, in the house and about the grounds.

In 1868 there was a complete eclipse of the sun in India and but very few individuals among the teeming millions who viewed it did not believe the dragon Rahn was endeavoring to swallow up the Lord of Day. The pious Hindu while the eclipse is coming on, takes a torch, and begins searching his house, carefully removing all cooked food and drinking water; because, by the eclipse, such food and water become "unclean." A writer from Fort Sill telling of the eclipse of 1878 said; "It was the grandest sight I ever saw, but it frightened the Indians badly. Some threw themselves upon their knees and invoked Divine blessing; others flung themselves prostrate, face downward, others cried and yelled in frantic excitement and terror. Finally, one old fellow stepped from the door of his lodge, pistol in hand, and fixing his eyes on the darkened Sun, mumbled a few unintelligible words and raising his arm took direct aim at the luminary and fired the pistol. This happened at the moment of total obscurity and a moment after the sun peeped forth." It was unanimously voted by the Indians that the timely discharge of the firearm alone saved the orb from total extinction. Thousands of similar cases of the action of the primitive mind might be related, but these will suffice.



A MODEL AMATEUR STATION.

The obscuration of the sun, commonly known as an eclipse, is, as is generally understood, due to the presence of the moon directly between the earth and the sun. The surface of the moon, relatively speaking, is so much smaller than the sun, that, notwithstanding its comparative nearness to the earth, the shadow does not completely cover the sun at any time and casts only a very narrow shadow. Even at time of total obscurity a bright light called the *corona* will encircle the shadow, varying in brightness and size. The longest possible total obscurity would happen at the equator and be of eight minutes duration. The longest time the sun will be hidden in the coming eclipse will be about two minutes.



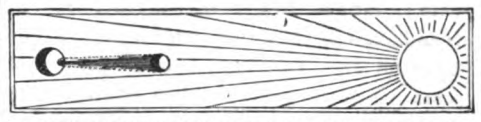
A CORONA OF THE SUN.

The eclipse of May 28th will be the first observable in the United States since 1889. The moon's shadow will touch the earth somewhere out in the Pacific ocean and travel eastward in a somewhat unusual path. Sweeping along at a rate of one thousand miles an hour, it will reach land on the west coast of Mexico, crossing that country in a northeasterly direction and arriving at New Orleans with a total obscuration at half-past seven A. M. The total disappearance there will be one minute and seventeen seconds. From there it passes in a straight line to Norfolk, Va., passing through Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, the Carolinas and the southwestern end of Virginia. A strip of about fifty-four miles wide will be in total darkness for over a minute. From here it passes in the same direction into the Atlantic until it reaches the coast of Portugal at 3.30 P. M. and thence across northern Africa into the Red Sea.

The most elaborate preparations for scientific observation have been made at great cost in all parts of the world; but the fact that an amateur photographer, Mrs. Maunder, the wife of an English astronomer, who accompanied her husband to India to witness the eclipse of 1898, took the finest photograph of an eclipse ever known, has stimulated thousands of amateurs to similar effort. In her very successful attempt she used a Dallmeyer stigmatic lens of one and one-half inches apperture and nine inches focal length. If the sky be clear undoubtedly splendid pictures will result.

At Tripoli, Africa, there is fifty per cent. less likelihood of cloud than at any other point, and that will be the Mecca of observers. Telegraphs and cipher code will enable them to know every official observation from the first point in Mexico at sunrise until its disappearance between five and six in the afternoon near the Indian ocean.

Many elaborate stations will be erected and our sketch shows a model amateur outfit. The initial cut shows official observations in a large observatory. Note the operator repeating by



RELATIVE POSITION OF EARTH, SUN AND MOON.

telegraph the calls of the observer looking through the glass. But any of our readers may obtain a clear view of the passing of the shadow by smoking a piece of ordinary window glass over a candle flame and looking through it at the sun.

QUEEN VICTORIA AT CHURCH.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



ON the 24th of May, 1900, Queen Victoria, if she lives, will be eighty-one years old. Through all these years, or at least since her childhood, the Queen has been a regular attendant at church, no matter at which of the royal residences she may have chanced to be living. Although most of the palaces have magnificent royal chapels connected with them, Her Majesty is quite as apt to be found worshiping at the humble parish church.

When at Balmoral Castle, in Scotland, her favorite residence, the Queen attends Crathie Church, the regular Presbyterian house of worship of the village, although she is regularly, of course, a communicant of the Church of England. When she is at Balmoral it is said that the tourists who flock to church to get a glimpse of royalty at its devotions make a nuisance of themselves to the regular attendants. No doubt many of these people do go to the church actuated more by curiosity than by devotion, and it is quite likely they stare about them more than could be called polite. One visitor, who perhaps may not have seen herself as others saw her, wrote of her impressions as follows: "The Queen did look so cross. I had been trying to get a glimpse of her, when all at once my brother nudged me and said, 'Now you can see.' I looked up, and the Queen saw me, and looked so cross." An English writer commenting on this story says: "Poor Queen! She is of course quite different from all other people, and likes to be impudently stared at from the beginning to the end of the service in church where she attends worship. It is most extraordinary that educated persons who would angrily resent being persistently watched and stared at themselves, cannot see that such conduct on their part is likely to be just as offensive to other people."

The communion Sunday at Crathie Church, Balmoral, has been described by the Queen in her Journal of November, 1871. She was then present for the first time at a communion service in a Presbyterian church. "It would be impossible," she writes, "to say how deeply we were impressed by the grand simplicity of the service. It was all so truly earnest, and no description can do justice to the perfect devotion of the whole assemblage. It was most touching, and I longed much to join in it. To see all these simple good people in their nice plain dresses, so many of whom I knew, and some of whom had walked far, old as they were, in the deep snow, was very touching. Since 1873," Her Majesty adds in a note, "I have regularly partaken of the communion at Balmoral every autumn."

The first time the Queen went to Crathie Church a fine dog followed the clergyman up the pulpit steps and lay against the door of the pulpit while his master was preaching. In consequence of the remonstrance of the minister in attendance at Balmoral at the time, when next Sunday came around the clergyman came to Crathie Church without his dog. Dining at Balmoral a few days later he was surprised to have his royal hostess demand the reason for the dog's absence. He explained that he had been told that the dog annoyed her Majesty. "Not at all," promptly said the Queen. "I wish everybody behaved as well at church as does your noble dog."

At Windsor Castle there are two royal chapels. St. George's Chapel, the older, is a magnificent specimen of the florid Gothic architecture. It contains the stalls of the Knights of the Garter, and here their installation takes place. At the east end of the chapel is the royal vault in which are buried George III and his Queen, George IV, the Princess Charlotte, the Duke of Kent, the Duke of York, William IV and his Queen, and several other royalties. Prince Albert of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, the Queen's husband, is not buried there, however, but in a magnificent building erected by the Queen to his memory and called the Royal Tomb House, or Albert Memorial Chapel. This building is only sixty-eight feet in length, but is designed with almost indescribable richness. At the entrance to the chapel is the cenotaph, made of black and gold Tuscan marble, bearing a sculptured effigy of the prince, carved from pure white Carrara marble. The figure is represented as dressed in the armor of a fourteenth century knight, and wearing the order of the Garter.

The body of the deceased prince is not buried in the chapel, but in a mausoleum erected for it on the left hand side of the Long Walk, at a short distance from the Castle. In another mausoleum near lies the body of the Duchess of Kent, the Queen's mother. This magnificent tomb of the Prince Consort, which was erected at the sole expense of the Queen, cost one million of dollars.

When they are at Osborne House, in the Isle of Wight, the Queen and Court worship at Whippingham Church. This church was rebuilt but a short time before the death of the Prince Consort, who took an active interest in the restoration of the edifice. He is commemorated there by a handsome monument to him erected by the Queen in the chancel of the church. The Princess Beatrice was married to Prince Henry of Battenburg in Whippingham Church, in 1885. This is said to be the first instance on record of the daughter of a sovereign being married in a parish church.

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Men, Women and Things.

CONDUCTED BY JENNIE MELVENE DAVIS.



Alma-Tadema is a name familiar alike to the art critic and to the people at large. His wonderful pictures of life in Egypt and Rome with the beautiful classic figures of women, the intense blue sky and the wonderful brilliancy of light playing over white marble, remains forever in the memory as a distinctive acquisition. They have probably been reproduced oftener in prints, photographs and engravings than the work of any other living artist. Sir Lawrence Alma-Tadema has a beautiful home in London which shows at every turn an artist's thought Alma-Tadema is about sixty years of age, but in that lifetime he has painted more than three hundred important pictures. The celebrated artist is Dutch by birth although his title comes from the knighthood bestowed upon him by Victoria in 1879. He is the son of a notary. His father died when Tadema was a child of four and the care for his education fell upon his mother. She had a wholesome distrust of art and artists and tried to train her son to be a lawyer The boy's instincts were all towards art and every moment he was out of school was spent with a pencil or brush in his hand. The constant effort injured his health but at the age of thirteen a portrait of his sister was exhibited as his work. Thinking that the boy would not live his mother consented to allow him to devote all his time to art. He studied at the Antwerp Academy and later under the distinguished Belgian artist, Hendrik Leys. With congenial work came vigorous health and the sometime invalid became the greatest worker. All of his early work has been destroyed by the critical artist. His first successful picture depicted life in Egypt. It was called "Life in Egypt Three Thousand Years Ago." His mother lived to see him attain local fame. He married a French lady but on her death in 1869 he came to London where he has ever since made his home. He married an English wife, became an English citizen and so closely identified himself with the life of his adopted country that many people forget that he is not a native Englishman. His first contribution to the Royal Academy was a picture painted in Antwerp and entitled the Pyrrhic Dance. His first picture painted in England was "A Roman Emperor." Alma-Tadema is a diligent worker but from two to three years are spent upon each picture. He keeps two or three canvasses going at once and among these there is generally a portrait. His portraits are as characteristic as his other work for he never paints the conventional portrait of a head but surrounds his portraits with familiar objects so that the setting of life is given to the semblance of life. He is necessarily a thorough historical student and is often consulted regarding the setting of plays that show the life of Rome or Egypt. His house contains a beautiful marble gallery leading to a studio. A stairway of burnished brass and windows of onyx are among the interesting features of a house that is like no other in the world. Among its ornaments is a beautiful piano inlaid with gold, mother of pearl and semi-precious stones while inside the lid on a vellum lining are the names of famous pianists who have used the instrument. Americans have been the largest purchasers of Alma-Tadema's work. The careful attention to detail shows the Dutch school, but the peculiar brilliancy of their beauty appeals to every lover of beauty while the artistic perfection wins the plaudits of critics. Success both artistic and financial has crowned Sir Alma-Tadema's life.

Miss Maud Gonne has just left America and sailed for Paris, where she will speak for the cause of Irish liberty and for the Boers. Miss Gonne is thirty-two years old but her name is known the world over for her eloquent protests against England's treatment of Ireland. Miss Gonne spent her childhood in Dublin where many scenes of the misery of the people were indellibly impressed upon her. For seven years she lived in France and then she returned to Ireland. She became identified with the Nationalist party and devoted her life to the task of freeing the political prisoners and of solving the problem of her people. This was her second lecture tour in America. Miss Gonne is a very beautiful young woman, with a gentle voice and manner. She wears a low cut velvet gown when she lectures and seems to have stepped out of some old canvas. She has the intense earnestness and thorough belief in her ideals that carries conviction to her listeners. She is very far from the manner of the average platform speaker, but is illogical, sympathetic and womanly. It is her real love for the people of whom she speaks that wins her the co-operation and assistance of her audiences. Her beauty, her ability and her charm are powerful factors in her success, but above and beyond all is her absolute belief in the right of the cause. She has established a paper in Paris known as Ireland Libre.



The historical novel seems to be literary "winner" of the day. The greatest successes from the financial and popular side have been won in this field. Without doubt, the dominant figure in the field of historical romance is that of Paul Leicester Ford. His claims to serious attention as a historian are not without good foundation. He is a young man but his entire life has been spent in the atmosphere of historical study. His father owned one of the largest private libraries in the country in the line of American history. Ford has had the historical training that comes from the study of documents and sources of history. His life of Washington presents the hero from the familiar standpoint of daily life. All the little details that help to a personal view of the Father of his country are given. Again in his book "The Many Sided Franklin" Ford gives us much that is fresh and entertaining. His first successful novel. "The Honorable Peter Stirling" was generally understood to be a sketch of Grover Cleveland's life. The Story of an Untold Love was in quite a different vein. It is Ford's last book. Janice Meredith, that has met with the most favorable reception from the critics. It is the direct result of his work both as a historian and a novelist. The leading scenes are laid in New Jersey and it might almost be called a novel of New Jersey. The characters seem real flesh and blood and many people feel that this is the long expected great American novel. Paul Leicester Ford is a native of Brooklyn. The stately old home where he passed his boyhood stands on Clark Street but it has passed into other hands. If Paul Leicester Ford had done no other work than that in Janice Meredith he would be entitled to a leading place in the literary ranks.

Miss Elizabeth Jordan is the new editor of "Harper's Bazar." The entire re-organization of the Harper business has given this very important position to a very young woman. Miss Jordan had however "arrived" before this last mark of success was placed upon her. She came to New York from Milwaukee, Wisconsin, about ten years ago and at once obtained a position upon the "World." Her merit made her one of the best-known newspaper women in New York. She wrote a collection of short stories "Tales of the City Room" that won recognition for her literary ability as well as for her newspaper instinct. She has force, tact, discrimination, literary ability and great executive force. Her friends believe she will make all these qualities tell for success in her new position.



Anna Elizabeth Klumpke, an American girl, is the heiress of the world celebrated artist, Rosa Bonheur. The story of the friendship of these two women of alien race but of kindred taste and talent is one of the strange romances of real life. Miss Klumpke is a San Francisco girl and belongs to a talented family. One of her sisters is Miss Dorothy Klumpke, the well known astronomer. It is now a little more than ten years since Miss Klumpke exhibited in the Paris salon a portrait of her mother. The picture with its benign face and silvery hair attracted the attention of Rosa Bonheur and she sought the acquaintance of the young artist. Miss Klumpke has lived in Boston since leaving San Francisco, but for the past few years her home has been in Paris. It was while on a visit to America that she received an invitation to paint the portrait of the great artist. The acquaintance that grew up through this means ripened into such love and devotion on both sides that the great French artist made the young American heiress to her fortune of nearly $60,000, her chateau at Fontainbleau and all her paintings. Miss Klumpke announced at once that she would give half the proceeds of the sale of the pictures to Rosa Bonheur's brother and nieces. Miss Klumpke intends to gather together all Rosa Bonheur's work, prepare an exhaustive and critical catalogue, and then have the collection exhibited in France, England and America. A large part of the work has never been exhibited and the collection will be a monument to the genius and industry of the great animal painter. After the collection has been exhibited the different canvasses will be sold. Miss Klumpke has given $10,000 of the money to the Society of French Artists to found a Rosa Bonheur prize. The interest will provide for an annual prize of $300, as the lump sum is the largest prize foundation in the society. The prize is to be awarded by the salon jury to the most meritorious picture of the year without regard to race, age or sex of the artist. Miss Klumpke also intends to repair the chateau at Fontainbleau and make it a Mecca to art pilgrims. In fact the American girl seems to consider the fortune in the light of a trust. She is to write a life of Rosa Bonheur and give the impressions she gained through the intimate comradeship that she enjoyed with her. She feels that the real inner life of Rosa Bonheur was little known or understood and rejoices that her love rendered the great artist's last days less lonely. Miss Klumpke's own art has been at a standstill as her whole strength and energy has been given to her scheme of perpetuating the memory of the great woman artist. Miss Klumpke will not be a wealthy woman when she has perfected her plans of exhibiting the works of her friend, but her name will be indissolubly linked with that of the world's greatest painter of animal life.



Leonora Jackson is a young American girl who is working to attain the fame in her own land that is already hers in Europe. She has fought her way to fame with a violin. No artist of her years can be said to rival her and many believe that she will achieve the greatest fame won by a woman violinist. Miss Jackson has a strong, firm face lighted by eyes whose color seems to change from light blue to black as the emotions of the girl deepen and vary. Her hands seem large and awkward until she grasps the bow of her violin when they become full of nervous force. Miss Jackson is vehemently American. In an interview she said, "I am an American girl. Whatever triumphs I have achieved I rejoice in since through them I have held up the stars and stripes." Miss Jackson was born in Boston but all her childhood life was passed in Chicago. Her mother's family were all musical. Mrs. Jackson herself prior to her marriage studied vocal music in Italy and conducted large singing classes in this country. When Leonora was a baby the sound of a violin seemed to fill her with joy. Before she was six years old the child had her tiny violin and when she was six she had the best teachers to be found in the city. While still a child she was sent to Paris and was placed in the famous conservatory under Professor Desjardins. At this time came the great financial reverses that left the family absolutely penniless. The mother and daughter returned to America. The plan was conceived of giving concerts at seaside resorts during the summer in order to pay the further expenses of Leonora's instruction. For two years this plan was followed. Finally two wealthy women recognized the phenomenal talent of the young girl and offered to pay the expenses of herself and her mother for four years abroad. Others who had heard the little concerts were anxious to assist and finally a subscription paper containing names and representing six of our largest cities was made up. Money enough was promised for a four years' course at Berlin under Joachim and the purchase of a rare Storioni violin. After her study Miss Jackson made her debut at a grand concert in Berlin where Joachim himself led the orchestra. She was commanded to appear before the Empress. These two triumphs but led to a greater for that same year she won the Mendelssohn prize of fifteen hundred marks. Triumphs followed at Paris, at London and at Geneva. She came to America to fill an engagement for twenty orchestral concerts. The girl who had captured Europe had no need to fear the reception that her own people would give her. She more than satisfied the expectations roused by her European successes. Great as her successes have been the future seems to hold even more for this brilliant, talented young American artist.



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KIPLING'S AMERICAN HOME.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



PEOPLE often wonder how Kipling, an Englishman and raised in the torrid climate of India, should have happened to build for himself a home on a mountain side in Vermont, in the very center, as he himself has said, of the great "pie belt" of New England.

Not long after Kipling came to London from India he became acquainted with Walcot Balestier, a young man of many rare qualities, whose early death not long after came as a grievous blow to every one who knew him. Kipling soon saw and appreciated the unusual literary talent which Balestier possessed, and the two men became friends. Balestier was the son of an aristocratic New York family, the members of which owned a country home a few miles out of Brattleboro, Vermont. In time the family became so attached to this home that they spent not only their summers there but frequently the whole of the year.

When Kipling first came to America he was invited to visit the Balestier family at their country home. It was mid-winter. One can imagine what an experience that ride from New York to the snow-covered Green Mountains of Vermont must have been to a man of Kipling's artistic temperament, who had lived, as he had, in a country where the fields shone white with heat instead of frost. Sometime afterwards Kipling wrote an account of this journey, putting into it his first impressions of snow, sleighs, frost, and fur-clad men and women as he saw them at the stations at which the train paused. The rapidly falling snow, blotting out every trace of what had preceded it, seemed to have had a fascination for him, and he afterwards wrote one of his most striking stories with this as a theme. In this story he tells of a crime committed in a New England winter and of the escape on snow shoes of the man who had done the wrong, safely, as he thinks, because a fast-falling storm of snow had entirely covered his tracks. But when spring came, and the snow gradually disappeared in the sun, the light upper coat of the last storm melted so as to reveal the big, deep footsteps of the fugitive, so that he was detected and brought to punishment.

Eventually Kipling married Miss Balestier, the sister of his London friend, and having bought a hill-side near the Balestier place built a house upon it. This house, built of stone and wood, long, low and with an English homelike look about it, stands where its windows look up and across the Connecticut valley to where, many miles away, the mountains of Vermont and New Hampshire rise unevenly against the sky.

The author named the house "Naulahka," the same word which he had used as the title of one of his most fascinating books. The Naulahka is supposed to be a famous emerald, in India, so large and beautiful that it is the most precious possession of an Indian potentate. The scene of the book opens in Colorado, with the hero and heroine sitting on a bridge, engaged in argument. The young woman, believing that she has a mission to go as a physician to the high caste women of India, rejects the young man's love for this career, and starts eastward, half way around the world. The young man has political ambitions centering in the future of his town in



NAULAHKA.

Colorado. The wife of an all-powerful railroad magnate who has a passion for emeralds, promises to make her husband build the railroad to the young man's town, and thus insure its future and his own, if he will bring her the Naulahka, of which she has heard. He agrees, and starts for India, westward half way around the world. Of course the hero and heroine meet in India, and the rest of the book is occupied with their wonderful adventures there. The book has had a special interest from the fact that when it was printed it was said that young Balestier, who had spent some time in Colorado for his health, had assisted in the writing of the chapters which gave such vivid pictures of Colorado and western life.

Kipling has lived in his Brattleboro home at more or less irregular intervals since the house was built. People in the community who have come to know him well admire him greatly, and appreciate the privilege of his acquaintance. One pleasant story which I have heard of him there I give, although I cannot vouch for its correctness personally. A young man, the son of one of the neighbors, had occasion to go to Kipling's house. Before he went away he asked if he might take a book which had attracted his attention while he had been waiting. Mr. Kipling, surprised, because the book was a technical one, asked the young man why he was interested in it, and learned that he was trying to work his way through college and that the book pertained to a subject which he was studying. In the acquaintance which developed it transpired that one way in which the student was earning money to pay his expenses was by soliciting business as a life insurance agent. Eventually Mr. Kipling allowed him to insure his life for a sum so large that the agent's per cent. of the premium went a long way towards paying a year's expense at college.

I happened to see Mr. Kipling once, while he was living at Naulahka. One summer a friend and myself drove twenty miles for the sake of seeing the house where the famous writer lived. Just before we came in sight of the house we met Kipling himself, being driven to town. He was in a high English dog cart, driven by a servant in a tall hat and immaculate livery. Kipling himself had on a loose, well-worn sack coat and an old black slouch hat. He was smoking a short brier pipe. Unlike many famous men his pictures look so much like him that one who sees them may know what he looks like.

I have always been glad that I saw him. Oddly enough I had open on my knees at the time, and had just been reading aloud to my companion, one of Kipling's stories, printed in a current number of a magazine. The beautiful drive across the Connecticut valley, the fascinating story, the sight of the writer himself and then of his home, which we soon drove past, all combine to make one of the pleasantest memories which I look back upon.

CALENDAR SUPERSTITIONS.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



THERE is a very old superstition that on the night before the first of May the witches dance with the devils on the mountains. For protection against these same witches, the country folk gather branches of the white-thorn and hang them in their entries. It is not alone to gather the blossoming hawthorn that the maiden rises early to go a Maying, for there is a belief that the dew that is found on the grass on the first morning of May has a wonderful power to beautify the face that is bathed in it. In some parts of Scotland there is an ancient custom of sending out a man very early on May-day morning to cross the river, before any woman shall have a chance to do so, for this would banish the salmon from the river for a year.

It has always been considered very unlucky to marry in May, but the anxious maiden has, on May-day, her usual opportunity to peer into the future. A syllabub having been made of warm milk, cake and wine, a wedding ring is dropped into it and she who first succeeds in fishing it out with a ladle will be the first to marry.

Another love charm is thus described in Gay's Shepherd's Week:

"Last May-day fair I searched to find a snail,
That might my secret lover's name reveal;
Upon a gooseberry bush a snail I found,
For always snails near sweetest fruits abound.
I seized the vermin; home I quickly sped,
And on the hearth the milk-white embers spread;
Slow crawled the snail, and, if I right can spell,
In the soft ashes marked a curious L:
Oh, may this wondrous omen lucky prove!
For L is found in Lubberkin and Love."

A ceremony that is performed in Germany on May twenty-fifth, St. Urban's Day, is thus described by an ancient writer: "Upon St. Urban's Day all the vintners and masters of vineyards set a table either in the market-steed or in some other open and public place, and covering it with fine napery, and strewing upon it green leavese and sweete flowers, do place upon the table the image of that holy bishop, and then if the day be cleare and faire, they crown the image with great store of wine; but if the weather prove rugged and rainie, they cast filth, mire and puddle water upon it; persuading themselves that, if that day be faire and calme, their grapes which then begin to flourish, will prove good that year: but if it be stormie and tempestuous, they shall have a bad vintage."

In Rogation Week the young men in certain English parishes used to meet together and proceed with great noise to various orchards where they would form a circle about the trees uttering this incantation:

"Stand fast root; bear well top;
God send you a youling sop!
Every twig apple big,
Every bough apple snow."

If the owner of the orchard did not then ask them to drink at his expense they would pronounce an anathema against him and his trees and go on to a more promising orchard.

There are several interesting superstitions relating to Ascension Day. On that day the country people make crosses on a cheese with a rope's end and this cheese is supposed to afford them protection in times of violent storms. If an egg laid on Ascension Day be hung in the roof of a house it is believed that it will protect the house from injury. On this day, too, the Doge of Venice was wont to wed the Adriatic with a ring, in token of Pope Alexander's permission to the Venetians to exercise authority over the sea as a man does over his wife. But the Adriatic, like a headstrong spouse, was often known to prove refractory.

Congresses at the Exposition.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



ONE OF the most important features of the Paris exposition this year will be the congresses to be held in connection with it, of which over one hundred have been already arranged for. Experts, scientists and authorities from all parts of the world have promised to gather at these congresses, and no pains have been spared to make them interesting and instructive in the highest degree.

Among the topics discussed will be architecture, automobilism, the blind, cheap dwellings, commercial travelers, deaf and dumb, dentistry, drawing, feminine institutions, firemen, hypnotism, life saving, literary and artistic rights, naval architecture, Sunday rests, abuse of tobacco, women's rights and workingmen's associations.

Some of these congresses will last as long as three weeks, while others will finish their business in forty-eight hours. The medical congress will be attended by several thousand doctors who will come from all parts of the world. To receive properly the members of these several gatherings the exposition has provided a magnificent building and sufficient funds to entertain on a magnificent scale. The municipality of Paris has also made arrangements with railways, steamship lines, and other companies in order that they may make concessions and reductions in their charges for the convenience and comfort of these visitors. All the congresses will have the same chief—M. Gariel, who occupied the same position in the Paris exposition of 1889. M. Gariel is a highly educated man, a chief of civil engineers and a professor of the faculty of medicine.

The building in which the conventions will meet is called, appropriately, Congress Hall. It is located on the bank of the Seine, and is a handsome structure of the Louis XVI style. The lower floor is reserved for social economy exhibits. The first floor is an immense hall, with five meeting rooms for the use of the congresses—one of these will seat eight hundred persons and two of the smaller ones will each seat two hundred and fifty.

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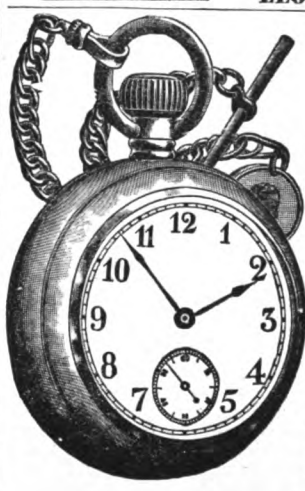
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This elegant SOLID GOLD plated stylish curb link Bracelet, beautifully engraved, with heart shaped locket that opens with a dainty little key, & also this magnificent Solid Gold Shell Birthday Ring. You get both of them free. Just send us your name & address (letter or postal), that's all, & we will send you 20 Pks. of our Sweet Leonin Perfume to sell at 10c, when sold, send us the money & we will promptly send you this Bracelet & Ring. We run all the risk and take back what you cannot sell. Our reliability is established. We refer to the publisher of this paper or to any National Bank in this city. Our Perfume sells at sight & is wanted in every home.

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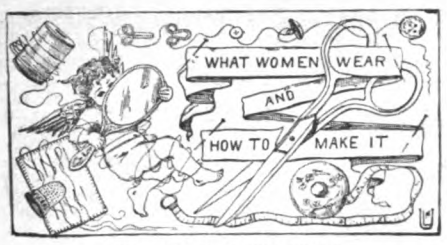
LEONIN CO., Dept. 614 St. Louis, Mo.



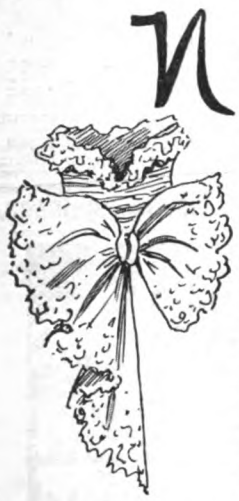
WE GIVE THIS WATCH FOR A CLUB OF 4.

Thirty Minutes is a short time, but many have earned one of these watches in less time than that. It is one of the very best watches for time ever offered to our readers at no matter what the price asked for it. We know, of course, there are watches that cost more money, because they are in gold or silver cases, but they will not keep any better time, simply because they cannot. This watch keeps not perfect time, we never saw the watch that did, but it keeps as near perfect time as watches usually do. We have such faith in this watch as a timekeeper that we send with every one a guarantee just as binding as that given with any watch, no matter what make. We are willing to give you this watch if you will do us a slight service, which you can easily do in an hour. We wish to increase our subscription list, and we want the assistance of every reader of this paper to that end. We do not want you to do it for nothing, we will reward you for it. You can easily secure this valuable watch if you get four subscribers to this paper, at our special subscription price of 25 cents a year each. Do this, sending us $1.00, with the names of four subscribers to this paper, and we will send our paper to each subscriber for one year, and we will send you the watch to reward you for your efforts in our behalf. Start out now and see what you can do. Remember we guarantee every watch. If you get five subscribers and send us $1.25 for the same we will also send you a nice chain. Address

COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.



WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



NEW French foulard silks and satins are shown at the best shops in the most fascinating of Ranne velvet designs and colorings, and are utilized for bodices to be combined with fluffy skirts of thin materials, such as spotted or plain gauze, mousseline de soie, or organdie. The effect is charming. One of the newest skirt models for making up any of the light wools for summer wear has a straight front breadth, horizontal tucked sides with a circular flounce at the foot, and a box-plaited back. Another pretty skirt has seven gores, each ending in a hollow plait a little below the knees, producing a decided flare.

Dainty little Puritan berthas, Vandyke collarettes, Marie Antoinette fichus, bordered with one or two accordion plaited frills of India mull, chiffon, net or lace, Queen Bess pelerine with long scarf ends diminishing to mere points, or those of China silk delicately embroidered and provided with stole fronts that are edged with deep silk fringe in tints matching the embroidery, are to be very prominent features of dressy summer gowns, as well as of transparent toilettes of ceremony. A large majority of the handsome new gowns of lace, net, chiffon, nun's veiling, crepe de chine, etc., show a decoration more or less elaborate of black velvet ribbon of the narrowest width, used as strappings, choux loops, and arranged in rows, or clusters, the width of the velvet apart. This trimming has been in vogue with the French for several seasons past, but has never before been put to the artistic uses, nor employed in such effective and lavish manner as at the present time. It is a simple mode of trimming and most effective.



The season's display in silk begins with plain and fancy taffetas and uncommonly handsome effects in black and white and black alone in various weaves. A beautiful repped black silk of a brilliant lustre will be much used later on, and will combine exquisitely with accordion plaitings of black mousseline de soie.

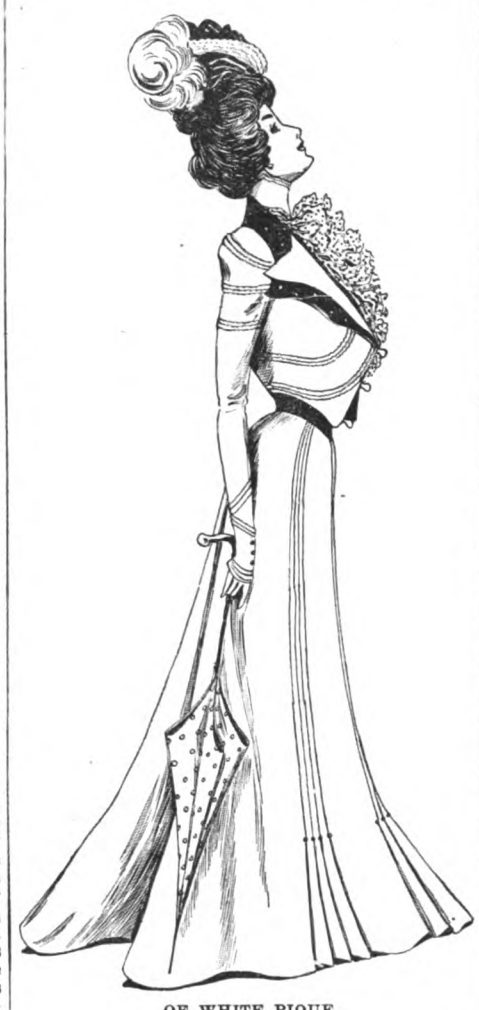
No more favored material is to be found among the summer stuffs than linen lawn. The elaborate decoration in the high grades of lawn and linen lawns, makes the cost of gowns of this description, in many instances, as high as that of silk fabrics, with which they are not infrequently combined.

"Wash" goods is no longer a description. It is misleading. By far the larger part of the wash goods are entirely unfitted for laundering purposes and can only be put successfully through a dry cleansing process. The time was, not so long ago, when wash goods were made in the simplest manner, and were not intended for smart wear. Nowadays the beauty of some of our cotton dress goods rivals that of many of the silk or wool materials, and the field of the cotton gown has widened until it involves every sphere of availability from the early morning stroll to the evening hop, when the weather is warm.



Smart tailors make modish looking suits of duck, pique, linen and cotton cheviots, which though unlined show in every other respect as trig and finished an effect as any of the expensive cloth suits. As to shirt waists, when made by a fashionable woman's tailor, those of cotton goods often exceed in price those of silk.

In duck or pique gowns the combination of color is very charming. A white cheviot, cotton, has a seven gored skirt, each seam ending in a side plait at the knees, and stitched several times both sides of the seam, with a graduated box-plait at the back. The short, square Eton has a rolling collar of delft blue stitched with white, and displays an undershirt bodice, after the middy style, of the blue, with a standing stock fastened at the back, as does the small yoke made of white. Plain and plaided linens are combined effectively. A



OF WHITE PIQUE.

frock having the tunic of scarlet and tan plaid, has a circular flounce attached to it by means of a deep hem-stitching, showing the scarlet of the silk petticoat worn beneath. The Eton has rounded fronts open wide over a folded girdle, unusually wide, of the plaid, brought around the waist and ending in a smart knot at the back. These linen gowns are shown in blue and tan, green and tan, scarlet, and a pretty shade of brown with white bars.

A pretty gown of white pique, very broad in pattern, has the skirt laid in clusters of side plaits set closely together, each tuck fastened with a pearl button from where the plait flares forming a flounce. The double box-plait at the back is prettily graduated. The Eton jacket is trimmed with rows of narrow braid simulating tucks, and has double revers, the upper one of white, while the lower one as well as the rolling collar is of scarlet polka dotted with white. With it is worn a smart waist of organdie, a white ground spotted with scarlet. A splendid way to utilize a half-worn cloth gown, tailor made, is to shorten the skirt to the ankles, thus doing away with all the worn places, allowing for a wide hem, or facing, and stitching it several times at the top. Such a skirt, provided the material is sufficiently heavy, is better unlined. As a result you will have a useful "Rainy Day" rig, and one which can also be worn when not rainy if the walking is bad.

An old gown of black taffeta has just been through the renovating process and it is not at all recognizable with its present Frenchy air. The skirt has a set of accordion plaited flounces, and the round waist is covered with La Tosca net laid in fine tucks, each cluster intersected with bands of fish-scale jet very light and pliable. A deep yoke having a tiny bolero attached, of yellowish tan Honiton lace, is the finishing touch. Accordion plaiting is the chic finish to all gowns whose material will permit such treatment. It has such a decidedly finished look and can be applied in various ways. A fetching waist of black taffeta is laid in the finest of tucks, running up and down, each stitched with turquoise blue, the front plait bound with blue bebe ribbon, as are the flaring cuffs. A set of turquoise studs, and a stock of blue complete this chic bit of finery.

Handkerchief waists are new and perfectly stunning when properly made. I saw one of scarlet, green and white plaid, the white predominating, especially in the border and fringe; the kerchiefs were so arranged as to form a bolero and sleeves, while the lower part of the bodice consisted of heavy all-over yellow lace, in blouse fashion. Worn with a crushed belt of white satin, and stock of the same with a knot of scarlet velvet at the side, it presented a most pleasing tout ensemble.

SIX methods of extracting perfume are known. The first is expression by means of a special press, which is applicable without too great loss to fruit skins rich in essential oils, such as orange and citron peel, previously grated. Another method is that of distillation, which consists in heating flowers with water in a boiler. The essential oil is volatilized and is condensed with the vapor of water in a worm and a Florentine receiver. The water goes to the bottom and the oil floats. The oils of neroli, patchouli, geranium, lavender, etc., are obtained in this way. The process is not applicable to the delicate perfume of the mignonette and the violet, and for them recourse is to be had to maceration of the flowers in animal fats or mineral oils, which have the property of absorbing odorous substances and are then washed in alcohol. The flowers are heated in the fat or the oil for a number of hours. For perfumes which cannot endure a high temperature the petals are placed between frames of glass coated with fat. This is the process of enfleurage. The pneumatic process, which consists in causing a current of perfumed air to be absorbed by coatings of lard on glass plates, appears not to have given satisfactory results. Another process consists in dissolving perfumes in volatile liquids, such as chloroform and volatilizing the solvents which can be done at a low temperature in a vacuum. This results in extreme delicacy and great accuracy.



THE WOMEN'S BUILDING.

The women's building at the coming Paris exposition will be known as the Women's Palace. When first the subject of a women's building at the exposition was broached it met with decided opposition, but the Paris women, remembering the women's pavilion at the Chicago fair in 1893, were determined not to be outdone by their American sisters, and so rallied their forces, overcame their opponents, and won their victory. The building is located near the Eiffel Tower, with a handsome parade on the Champs de Mars. It is intended that it shall be an international clubhouse for all ladies visiting the exposition. It is to have no board of managers, but a single head is expected to plan and carry out all the details of its management; hence it is hoped that all wrangling and difference over its affairs will be avoided.

There is to be a limited display in the main hall of women's work from all civilized countries, and women from various nationalities, garbed in their native costumes, will be seen there engaged each in some domestic avocation peculiar to her country. There will be several parlors and other rooms in the building for the use and comfort of lady visitors, while a large restaurant and an equally large hall for lunches and light refreshments will minister to their creature comforts. It is to be desired that these latter should be well patronized, as the ladies having the building in charge depend largely upon the restaurant and luncheon receipts for the means to meet the daily expenses of the undertaking, since no State aid has been granted for the purpose.

Of Interest to Canvassers.

There is probably no line of goods which give to the canvassing agents so large a margin and at the same time are such easy sellers as the Tin Ware, Aluminum and Scotch Granite manufactured by the Household Novelty Works of Chicago. Their handsome illustrated 40-page 1900 Catalogue is just out and will be sent free upon application.

A GIFT OF EMBROIDERY SILK.

Embroidery silk will cost you a lot of money bought at the store. We have a great jobbing-house lot of rich silk bought at wholesale. No high retail price with a lot of middle profits; but we get actual cost price. We want to give the whole benefit to our lady readers. We have prepared a lot of assorted packages containing a liberal supply of bright, rich, new silk in a variety of tones and shades, which would cost a heap of money bought at the stores. We will send our illustrated bargain list and full assorted, large sized silk package for the ridiculously low price of ten cents; or, three packages for twenty cents. Write to-day before the rush. S. W. LANE & CO., Augusta, Maine.

GROSSMAN'S STYLES
The Quintessence of Elegance

These beautiful effects sent C. O. D. with privilege of examiation at express office. Don't send money in advance. If found perfectly satisfactory, pay agent our special price and charges. If not, return at our expense.

No. 204. Stylish man made fly front suit, of superior refinished suiting. Jacket has double stitched seams, fitted back and near silk lining. Skirt has inverted plaited back, extra stiffening, percaline lining. A $10.00 value for $4.98

Colors, black, navy blue, brown, also grey or tan mixture.



No. 704. Satin Shirt Waist made over fitted lining. Elaborately trimmed with clusters of cording. Black, red or navy blue. Sale price $3.75.

No. 417. Swell, black or navy blue, all wool cheviot serge skirt, richly applique with silk and braid. Has new box plaited back. Lined and interlined. Special at $4.75.

Give all measurements to insure fit.

Samples free.

Send for our new book of up-to-date fashions No. 71. Free.

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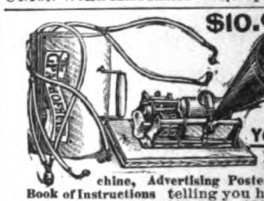


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Send 5c quick for Sample of our
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APPLIQUE SKIRT
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This magnificent Solid Gold shell ring, set with a brilliant simulation Diamond free, if you will sell 6 sets of our Beauty Pins (each set with an exquisite Jewel) at 25c a set. Send name & address. No money wanted. We run all risk and take back what you cannot sell. Also an extra handsome present if you write to-day. The Maxwell Co., Dept. 210 St. Louis, Mo.

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REMNANTS
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ART in needle work is on the advance. We know the ladies delight in odd pieces of silk and satin—"CRAZY QUILT" making is again VERY POPULAR. We are sure we have a bargain that all ladies will now delight in. Bright, handsome, odd-shaped, and pretty colored goods accumulate very fast at all NECKTIE FACTORIES; the styles were never so bright and pretty as they have been the past season and they are now burdened with remnants of many RICH GOODS. We have thousands of pieces of silk and satin on hand which we are going to give you a big trade on. People at a distance have hard times getting the right assortment to put into sofa-pillows, quilts, etc., and we can help you out now. We are going to dispose of this immense lot RIGHT OFF. Our packages contain from 99 to 168 pieces of the best quality assorted goods, and we want to get a lot introduced into every home; then you can order as you like for your friends, and MAKE MONEY doing our work and helping yourself also. Remember these pieces are carefully trimmed, and especially adapted to all sorts of fancy, art, and needle work. Many ladies sell tidies, fancy pillows, etc., at a great price made from these remnants. Order one sample lot now for only 25c. It would cost many dollars bought at a store.
Grand Offer: If you order our great assorted lot AT ONCE, we will give you several rich, bright and beautiful stamped satin pieces; each piece contains nine square inches and being stamped by hand with a graceful design for embroidery, is a great bargain.
Five Skeins Embroidery Silks Free. *In order to work your stamped satin and other pieces we also send absolutely FREE, five skeins of elegant embroidery silk, all different bright colors. This silk is worth nearly the price we ask for the remnants; but we know if you ORDER ONE lot we will sell many in your locality, so make this liberal offer besides giving you a large and elegant piece of* Plush *containing 36 square inches.*
BEST WAY. We send ONE of the above complete assorted lots FREE to all who send 25 cents for 6 months' subscription to "COMFORT" the best Home Monthly now published, and in order to get you to advertise "COMFORT" and this big bargain to your friends and neighbors we will send free with each package our great book, With Eight Full-Page Illustrations, for ornamenting the seams of Crazy Patchwork, or for other ornamental work where Fancy Stitches are used it has no equal. It shows how pieces for patchwork may be put together to get the best effect, how to cover up seams with fancy stitches, how to join edges, etc.
The book illustrates over one hundred and fifty of these besides directions for taking ART EMBROIDERY STITCHES, comprising the Outline and Kensington Stitch, Arrasene and Chenille Embroidery, Ribbon Work, Plush or Tufted Stitch, etc. It also tells how to do Kensington Painting.
Remember we send one big lot (over 100 pieces) Silk Remnants, the assorted stamped satin piece 5 Skeins *Embroidery silk; 36 square inches plush, and a great 15c. book on embroidery together with 6 months' subscription to "COMFORT," all for only 25 cents. Three lots and one year's subscription, 65 cents; five lots $1.00. Address,*
COMFORT, Silk Dept. B, Augusta, Maine.



EDITOR'S NOTE. The following rules govern the publication of matter in this department.

Contributors must without exception be regular subscribers to Comfort, and every contribution must bear the writer's own name and post-office address in full.

Original letters only, which deal with matters of general interest, will be published. They must be as brief, plain and correct as the writers can make them, and may vary in length from one hundred to four hundred words. Only letters of exceptional merit and interest may reach six hundred and fifty words. Contributors must write on one side of the paper only.

$10 CASH PRIZES $10.

The following cash prizes will be paid monthly:

1st.	For the best original letter		$3.00
2nd.	" " second best original letter		2.50
3rd.	" " third " " "		2.00
4th.	" " fourth " " "		1.50
5th.	" " fifth " " "		1.00

Competitors for these monthly cash prizes must *comply with all the above rules*, and in addition must bring at least one new Cousin into the COMFORT circle; that is, they must send one new subscriber with each letter, together with 50 cents for a yearly subscription.

These cash prizes will be announced monthly in this department.

No premiums will be given for subscriptions sent in under this Prize Offer.

All communications must be addressed to Aunt Minerva, care of COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

CASH PRIZE WINNERS.

Alice Pierson,	**$3.00**
Signora Crawford,	**2.50**
George Jones,	**2.00**
Nannie M. Sayer,	**1.50**
Mrs. F. A. Mitchell,	**1.00**

"Once more the Heavenly Power
Makes all things new;
And domes the red-plowed hills
With loving blue;
The blackbirds have their wills,
The throstles too."

DEAR NIECES AND NEPHEWS:

Two hundred and ninety-three years ago this month the first English settlement was made in this fair land. Is it not hard to realize that less than three centuries ago our country was a "howling wilderness," inhabited by wild beasts and savage Indians!

Eighty-one years ago, on the twenty-fourth of *this* month, the venerable Queen Victoria made her appearance in this world.

And on the first of May we celebrate the second anniversary of Dewey's master-stroke in the Philippine Islands, and still we are fighting there; still Aguinaldo's semi-savage hordes resist the authority of the United States, and the advent of civilization. God grant that another year may see an end to the war, and peaceful prosperity established in those beautiful islands.

Our first letter this month comes from the capital of our beloved country, and tells us of a new Catholic institution lately established there.

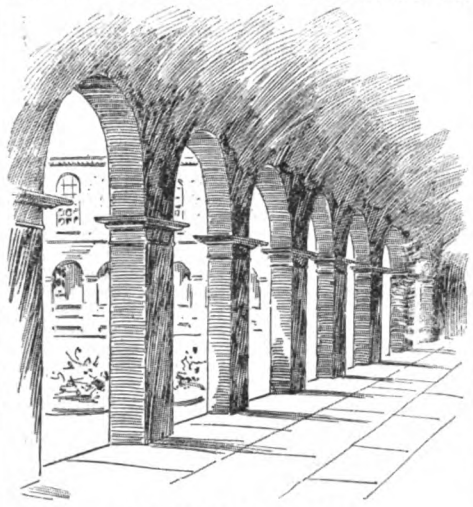
"A little to the northeast of Washington, D. C., on a low hill, rise the buildings of the new Roman Catholic monastery and church, called the College of the Holy Land. They were completed less than a year ago by the Franciscan Brothers, and the College has for its object the training of priests for work in the Holy Land, as missionaries and as attendants upon the shrines there. The buildings are all of yellow brick, and the church, which is modelled after the Byzantine church of St. Sophia in Constantinople, rises in the middle to a large rounding dome. On entering we find ourselves in a lofty church, the altar raised far above the floor and reached by a flight of steps on either side. To the right and left of the altar are balconies enclosed by slender colonnades, where the monks attend the services, and one hears their full, melodious voices joining in the responses and sometimes catches a glimpse of them in their rough, brown



CHURCH AND MONASTERY.

gowns, with rope girdles and shaven heads. What is, however, of most interest is the walk through the crypt beneath the church. This has been hollowed out into passages and cave-like grottoes to represent, in exact facsimile, all the chief shrines of the Holy Land, in order, I suppose, that the young priests may become thoroughly acquainted with them before going there to serve as guides. A young, sweet faced monk acted as our conductor and led us down the stairs at the end of one of the transepts to the darkness below. At the foot, he paused and lighted a candle, by which we saw the first shrine, an exact reproduction of the place in Nazareth where the Annunciation took place. Above the altar is a bas relief of the Annunciation, a copy from Luca Della Robbia, and in front, a star indicating the place where the angel stood. Next we are led through a narrow passage to a small imitation cave, the home of Joseph in Nazareth. The passage from here to the next grotto represents the Catacombs of Rome and is so dark that with the help of the guide's candle we can hardly distinguish the semi-circular holes in the whitewashed walls, facsimiles of the graves of the early Christians. The next grotto, that of the Martyrs, is, we are told, to be beautifully decorated, but it is now only a bare niche in the rough white wall. To the right of this is a somewhat larger grotto called the Chapel of the Poor Souls. In the center is what seems a long bier covered with black cloth, while at the end rises an imposing altar of black marble. The whole effect is gloomy and dark. Here the monks come to say mass for departed souls, and here the bodies of the brothers who die will be laid before they are buried. Behind the altar another door leads to the grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes, the original of which is the Mecca of so many prigrims.

"From here we go back through the Chapel of Poor Souls, through the Catacombs, to the Grotto of Bethlehem. Small hanging lamps are kept burning here night and day. A few steps below the passage the manger is represented, and in it, lying on the straw is a tiny wax babe. Opposite the manger an altar is raised to the Three Wise men. A passage leads from here up to the daylight of the church, and when we emerge we are taken to the last of the shrines, the Holy Sepulchre, which is beneath the large altar of the church. We enter first a small antechamber. This contains, on a low pillar, a square of marble which is supposed to mark the spot where stood the angel who announced the Resurrection of Christ. Beyond this, stooping to get through the low door, we enter, almost kneeling, a tiny crypt where we find a facsimile of the Holy Sepulchre. It is covered with a slab of pure white marble, upon which, the guide explains, a crack was cunningly carved by the early Christians to keep from it the grasping hands of the Turks. We are about to leave when our guide takes us aside and favors us with a glance into the picturesque cloisters or covered walk around the interior court of the monastery. It is used by the monks for exercise and recreation and



A GLIMPSE OF THE CLOISTER.

we catch a glimpse of several of them walking up and down in earnest conversation.

"When we emerge, we can hardly realize that we have not, in some mysterious way, drifted back to mediaeval times, and it is with almost a shock that we see the modern electric and steam cars which will take us back to the city in five or ten minutes."

ALICE PIERSON, Washington, D. C.

Now for a little of the Zoology of Oregon.

"Oregon as a state is simply a vast area of sleeping beauty. Little heard of, little described, she slumbers in her wild grandeur, leaving her future to coming ages. In yonder thicket of somber firs the wily deer dozes between his intervals of cudchewing in the day-time and romps with his mates in the forest glade when night hangs out her moon. Further beyond is the mighty elk, majestic sentinel of his herd, who scarcely heeds the shambling approach of a dusky bear.

But there is one animal which will not be found in this wild, mountainous country, but prefers to linger in the low hills just on the outskirts of civilization. This animal is the coyote which in Oregon is the most dreaded and hated of all beasts for the reason that the species of coyote in this state is perhaps the sharpest, trickiest and most damaging to the farmer of any of our nation's wolf tribe. His color is tan or lightbrown, his tail long and bushy, his ears straight and listful, and in those little eyes there glows a reckless cunning, a tireless vigilance which few animals possess. Unlike the prairie and timber wolves of the East, which often roam in bands, these coyotes always go prowling singly or in pairs.

"As champions of strategy they are close rivals to the South African Boer. You may hound one's track for hours and then call your dogs back in disgust because of your inability to tell what they are running. You may scour the hills for days and never catch sight of one. Yet you may barely reach home, dispose of your hunting garb and take the woodland path toward the house of some neighbor, when you will meet one face to face. If you have a gun, a hasty glimpse and a rustle in the distant autumn leaves, will act as a good reminder that you two have met and parted. If you are unarmed he will stand as still as death, with eyes gazing fondly into yours, and until you make some move of aggression, will never move a peg.

"When he wants a sheep he will approach a small flock, form them into a circle by trotting around them, and as they surge to and fro, will pick his sheep, kill it by a bite in the throat, suck its blood and leave the carcass. When pursued by hounds he is full of strategy. If there is a brook near at hand he will wade along it for a considerable distance to destroy the scent. When a forsaken brother is hard pressed by hounds a fresh coyote will often appear directly in front of the pack, and lure them off in pursuit of him while the other escapes and recuperates.

"The state of Oregon pays a bounty of two dollars each for the scalps of these beasts and many of the counties pay from three to five dollars, but scalps are hard to take and the treasuries do not suffer. The howl of this beast is wierd and sickening. It usually begins with a series of long whines and ends with a lot of half-human shrieks, that drive terror to the soul.

"But here is a good illustration of the truth in the saying that 'a barking dog seldom bites', for these animals are never known to spill human blood."

GEORGE JONES, Rosebury, Oregon.

Our next letter is from one of the older cousins. She has not visited us for some time, and we gladly welcome her entertaining contribution to our page.

"Among the Crow Indians who have just ceded a large reservation to the Government of the United States, lives the great Chief Plentyques, and not long since he visited the White Father at Washington. That he not only rules the tribe at large, but is also a ruler of the domestic circle, the following incident will show.

"Perhaps some of the cousins know the value of elks' teeth—they readily sell from fifty to seventy-five cents apiece, so that when a member of the 'four hundred' wishes to be very swell indeed she possesses herself of a garment upon which these valuable ornaments are more or less plentifully besprinkled.

"One cold winter day, a traveler from the east was seated inside a store in Billings, Montana. A tall, fine looking specimen of native American came in, followed by his squaw who was gorgeously attired; and thrown around her shoulders, extending to the floor, was a bright cloth mantle covered with elks' teeth, The garment attracted the traveler's fancy. He asked the woman to sell it to him. This she haughtily refused to do. She held her head high, and seemed a proud and mighty dame. A high price was named, and this attracted the great chief's attention. He bade the woman remove the garment; she wept, implored, and prayed. Her lord was inexorable. She kneeled before him, using every art and language she was possessed of to change him from his cruel purpose, but in vain. The insignia of her high estate was removed from her person; the money paid to the great warrior, and the two departed. Towards evening, upon looking out, two forms were noticed wending their homeward way. An Indian woman, bent almost double from the load upon her back, her head down, was wearily toiling along; while a few yards behind, with lofty strides came the 'heap big chief' Plentyques, viewing with complacency the bunches of bright tinware, red blankets, a saddle, ropes, harness, calico, etc., which now adorned the back of his princess instead of the garment of state with which she had entered town in the morning, and of which she was so proud."

N. M. SAYER, Charleston, Illinois.

Here is a letter from one of our poor shut-in cousins who longs, no doubt, to be out in the busy world, and so writes, hoping to draw whiffs of that same world, in the shape of letters from the cousins, to his shadowed corner. He says:

"It has been a long time now since I 'visited' with you all, and I trust you will all give me a welcome reception while I try to give you a short description of this little village of Butter which is situated in a beautiful valley through which run both the Watauga river and Roan creek, and which is surrounded on all sides by lofty mountains. There are about three hundred inhabitants, all white, six stores, two churches, Baptist and Methodist, one rolling mill, a fine college, and nine months of school terms. Butter is a fairly good farming country, but its nearest railroad is twelve miles away. A new railroad is now being built, however, which will, when finished, pass through the village. We hope to see it in operation this spring.

"Will not the cousins remember me with letters as I am still a helpless shut-in?"

THOMAS J. BUNTON, Butter, Tenn.

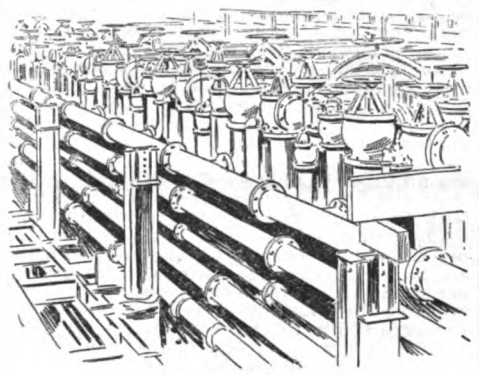
Mrs. V. D. Willison of Iron Hills P. O., Iowa, asks what one must do to get stories accepted. I know of no way to do but to write good stories in clear, terse, correctly spelled English, and then to offer them to such publications as use like stories. She also asks if one can copy from other stories. Never, under any circumstances! Let your stories be absolutely original if you wish to see them accepted and printed.

Next comes an interesting account of the making of beet sugar.

"The beets, when brought in by the farmers, are deposited in large sheds with V-shaped bottoms which are connected with the factory by means of channels through which a moderate flow of water carries the beets into the first washing machine. By means of a spiral they are tumbled about, washed, and carried on until they drop into an elevator which takes them to the top of the building. There they pass through an automatic weigher, and are sliced in such a manner as to open up their pores as much as possible.

"As these slices come from under the cutter they are put into a diffusion battery, of which there are two in the factory, each one having fourteen large cells or jars, holding several tons of the sliced beets, or cossettes as they are called, apiece. In this battery the juice is extracted from the beets by soaking them in warm water, which is turned into the contents of the first jar, and filtering through the mass of cossettes, passes out through a pipe set in the bottom of the jar. This pipe is also connected with the top of the second jar, thus carrying the water, forced along by pressure, into this jar, and thus the liquid is carried from one jar to another until it has passed through the whole fourteen. The water is now turned off and jar number two becomes number one—the first one being emptied of its cossettes, refilled and replaced as number fourteen; and so the work of the different batteries goes on, day and night, without cessation.

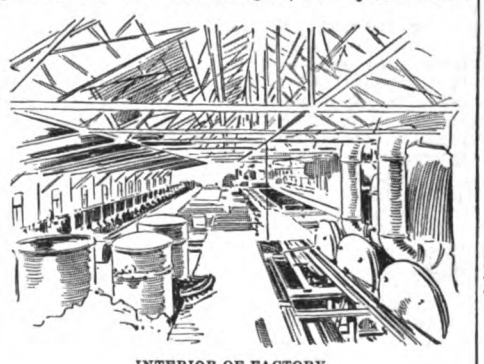
"The liquid which is drawn off from the battery



BATTERY OF DIFFUSION CELLS.

and which is of the color of vinegar, is conveyed first to a measuring tank, where impurities are removed by a chemical process, and then to the first filtration station. Thence it goes to saturation tanks, where the process of purification is completed; and it is again sent to the filtration station. After this it is clarified in the sulphur station, and then the filter station, which consists of twenty-six different machines, deals with the liquid for a time, and after this it is ready for the evaporators where begins the process of reducing the liquid to sugar. After a course of evaporation it is again clarified, and is now ready to be boiled down in the vacuum pans. These vacuum pans induce boiling at a much lower temperature than by the ordinary method, and their use materially reduces the cost of the manufacture of sugar. There are three of these pans in the factory, each measuring fifteen feet in diameter and having a capacity of five hundred and fifty barrels of sugar.

"Next come the crystalizers, then the mixers, and then the treatment in the centrifugals, which machines are, and must be, beautiful examples of perfect mechanism, because upon the ease and rapidity of their movement depend the success of the process. The thick, boiled down syrup is poured into these centrifugals, and by their swift



INTERIOR OF FACTORY.

revolutions the sugar is separated from the syrup and adheres to the sides to the centrifugal; the syrup is drawn off and the sugar transferred to the bins, from whence it is conveyed to the granulators and thoroughly dried. This is the last act in the process of manufacturing, and the sugar is dropped to the ground floor where it is sacked and stored in the sugarhouse ready for sale and shipment."

SIGNORA CRAWFORD, Clifton Forge, Va.

Next comes a description of the home of our cousin in Montezuma, Colorado, which really makes me wish I could ask her to take me as a summer boarder.

"Our home is about six miles below Argentine Pass and about two from Gray's Peak. We are snugly tucked in among the mountains, while the narrow stream known as the Snake river catches the sunbeams as it goes dancing by. Around us on every hand those rocky heights reach heavenward. We can stand in our door any day in the summer and see patches of snow which we can reach by half an hour's climbing. Over one hundred and thirty different varieties of flowers have been found within the radius of a mile. The birds waken us at dawn by their songs. And we always have that God-given right to breath the pure air of heaven; air which is as pure and as fresh as it was in Eden.

"From about the fourth of July until the middle of August we have the rainy season, though of late years it has not amounted to much until this summer. But it only rains a part of each day, and when the rain stops the sky is clear, the sun is bright and everything is lovely. The very air seems full of gladness. There are not many people here and the calm and holy grandeur of our surroundings tend to carry us away from the little trials and perplexities of every day life and to inspire us with thoughts of the Eternal and Changeless One whose care is ever around us.

"The mountains are so high that they appear to pierce the heavens and when we first came here our oldest daughter was barely three years old, and when she noticed a game trail over one of the highest mountains she ran to me exclaiming, 'Oh! mamma, I see the place where the people go to heaven when they die. I see the trail on the mountain.' I suppose to her childish fancy it seemed that departing spirits took that trail and when they reached the summit of the mountain stepped right off into heaven. I fear we shall not reach heaven so easily."

MRS. F. A. MITCHELL, Montezuma, Colorado.

I can sympathize with this little girl's fancy, for I distinctly remember wondering, when I was but little older than she, why people did not build ladders which would carry them into heaven, and so save themselves the long and toilsome work of "being good" in order to get there.

I have several letters from cousins which are either in the nature of advertisements or which ask for exchange of commodities, or which even in one or two cases ask for gifts from our readers. I am sorry to seem disobliging to these correspondents, but our page is not intended for that class of letters, and since our space is very limited I must reserve it for such letters as entertain and instruct my readers.

I have a very interesting personal letter from Mrs. Miller, whose husband was a newspaper correspondent in Cuba at the time of the surrender of Admiral Cervera, and who was an eye-witness of the destruction of Cervera's fleet. She writes of the interest with which both herself and her husband read Ashby Watkin's letter on the Crystobel Colon which appeared on this page in the early part of last winter.

And now I must regretfully say good-bye and lock up the remainder of my budget of letters until next month.

AUNT MINERVA.

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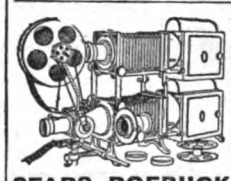


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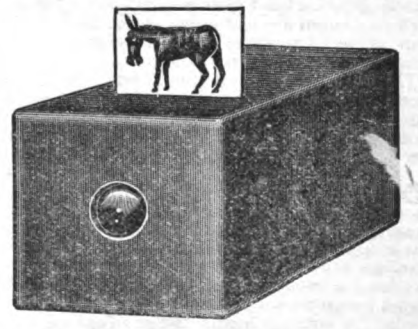


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BY EVERETT G. WHEELMAN.

SOMEBODY wants to know what good is accomplished by the "Cycle Shows" that are now held annually in all the large cities. In the first place they promote sociability by bringing together wheelmen from all parts of the country and making them acquainted with each other. When a cycle-show is held in the United States, promoters and exhibitors do all in their power to make it attractive to the general public. The manufacturers and dealers meet, do business and exchange ideas, but at the same time the people are by no means forgotten; information is gladly given them; they circulate freely throughout the show and have every opportunity to compare the various makes of cycles and sundries.

There is no greater stimulus to the bicyle trade than the Cycle Show.

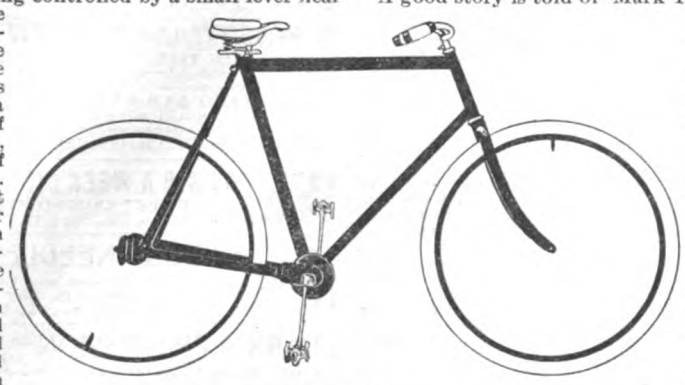
According to a veteran road rider the best way to clean a chain is to give it a good soaking over-night in a pan of paraffine or kerosene. Then the links should be worked one by one to rub out any of the clinging dirt. Next a thin lubricating oil should be applied to the links, and after the first ride with the chain so lubricated the most satisfactory thing to apply (of course, sparingly) is a mixture of tallow and black lead. This is rather messy to prepare, but a pot of it will last for years. The tallow keeps the chain easy and the black lead makes it run smoothly. He said he was not a believer in the thin lubricating oils that are frequently offered for sale. They are all right for machines to be used on the racing track, but lack substance for the machine of the ordinary rider.

Col. Pope attributes the growing popularity of the chainless wheel to the fact that it is the easiest running, best protected and most satisfactory gear ever applied to a bicycle. "We have yet to receive the first complaint or adverse criticism from a purchaser of a chainless. On the contrary," says he, "we have a sufficient number of enthusiastic testimonials to fill the biggest scrapbook on earth. Any man or woman who has purchased a chainless wheel will never go back to the chain type. We know this because they tell us so."

The Orient chainless has a Sager gear. This Sager gear is a rotary gear, that is, the teeth are not cut, but are made upon a pin about which they revolve. That is, the wheel gear is so mounted. The shaft gear is cut and rigid. It is claimed that this gear is an improvement on the bevel gear, in that it reduces the friction.

The first chainless wheels have now been ridden nearly 50,000 miles, and like wine, they improve with age, their mechanism showing no perceptible wear.

A new motor to be attached to any bicycle is so narrow that it goes into the frame of a bicycle and does not interfere with the use of the pedals. It weighs twenty pounds, and the other attachments weigh about five pounds. It has a speed of six to twenty miles an hour, the same being controlled by a small lever near the handle bar or a button in the end of the bar. It is started by a few turns of the pedals, and a turn of the lever. Sufficient gasolene for a day's run can be carried. The motor is finished in nickle and enamel and can be used either with or without the outside case.



A NEW CHAINLESS.

A new English cyclist's boot is provided with a flap on the inner side of the upper which can be turned up to keep the trousers away from the pedals.

To adapt a new English bicycle to riders of either sex the top bar is hinged at the head and connected by a screw socket to either the portion of the frame under the saddle or a brace near the crank hanger.

Over $2,000,000 has been spent by the State of Massachusetts in the building of improved highways. All of this vast sum has been secured from the legislature through the efforts of the League of American Wheelmen and every wheelman riding over them is indebted to the League for his pleasure, yet a large majority of them are not members of the organization which they could assist so materially in this and other lines of work.

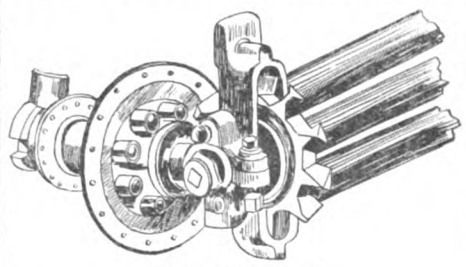
The English Government has been experimenting with motor cycles in modern warfare. One British firm has already shipped fifteen motor cycles to the Transvaal. These machines are used for scouting purposes. But unless they have been muffled they will make noise enough to announce their approach to the enemy a long distance. Most of the motor cycles used in this country last year for pacing purposes made a noise not unlike a continuous discharge of firecrackers. The machines sent to South Africa are said to be capable of going about twenty-two miles an hour over ordinary roads. A young Cambridge graduate is having an armored motor built which will be fitted with a rapid fire gun capable of firing five hundred rounds a minute.

An enterprising English firm builds to order houses for automobiles. They are portable houses, of light construction, quickly erected at any point, and have a neat appearing exterior. For a small runabout a house 6 by 8 feet has been designed. The sides are panelled and the interior lined with felt. The floor is raised slightly from the ground, and a hinged board at the door, turned in when the door is closed, forms an incline to run the automobile on.

"The style of modern riding is much more suitable to hill climbing than the old-fashioned and ungainly methods," said an old rider recently. "There is one golden rule in getting up slopes which should be remembered by all riders, especially those whose hearts are inclined to go pit a pat, and that is to keep the mouth shut. So long as you are breathing easily and well without gasping you are safe enough, and may continue, but if the exertion is violent enough to force you to inhale wind between your teeth, hop off and walk."

One of the highest geared bicycles ever constructed is said to have been built lately in New York for racing purposes at the forthcoming Paris Exhibition. The front sprocket contains sixty teeth and the rear sprocket seven teeth, giving a gear of two hundred and forty. To ride a mile in a minute on this gear the rider will have to make only one revolution every three-quarters of a second, or eighty revolutions in the minute.

Several rules for finding the gear of a bicycle have been published here but the following,



THE SAGER GEAR.

going the rounds of the press, presents still another method: "First you count the teeth on the front sprocket; then you forget and count them over again. Then you go through the same motions with the rear sprocket. Between first and second counts you scratch your head, repeat over a few well-learned incantations, and cudgel your brain back into the problem. By the time you have done examining the teeth of the rear sprocket, and find that your steely steed is of age, you forget for the second time the number of masticators on the front one. Then you go over the figures again, both front and rear; try to remember them while you think of the next step in the process, throw your cap on the road, slam the machine up against the fence, bend the handle bar, and divide by seven eleventhe. Then multiply the diameter of the rear tire by the number of links in the chain, divide by three, add the number of spokes in the front wheel, subtract ten, add eleven, kick off a crank, multiply by sixteen, and go rushing down the road stark, staring mad."

A good story is told of Mark Twain and his friend the Rev. Joseph H. Twitchell of Hartford, Conn. It seems that they once planned a bicycle trip from that city to Boston, and so notified a friend who lived at the "Hub." The appointed day was an ideal one for a long run, and the two friends started quite early in the morning. But neither of them were accustomed to long rides, so after twelve or fifteen miles had been ridden, it became apparent that each of the riders was waiting for the other to say something. Finally Twain said as they came in sight of the railway station in a small town they had entered: "Let's take the train the rest of the way."

Of course Mr. Twitchell agreed, and so the acquaintance in Boston was surprised by seeing the two friends walk up to his door about one o'clock in the afternoon. He greeted them warmly, and addressing Mr. Twitchell, said, "Well, you made pretty good time, didn't you?"

"O, fairly good time for novices," was the reply.

"What time did you leave Hartford?" he asked of Mr. Clemens.

"About 7 A. M."

"What, you don't mean to say that you have ridden all the way from Hartford to Boston on your bicycles?"

"No," replied Mark Twain, "but we rode far enough to demonstrate that it could be done."

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PECULIAR COINCIDENCES.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



GOING through the records at the United States Patent Office one is struck by the curious, not to say amusing, coincidences which often occur between the names of the patentees and their patents. Such coincidences are often to be found, it is true, in business circles, between the name of the merchant and the business which he carries on; but here, where so many thousands of records are gathered together, the number of cases in which the name of the worker is appropriate to his business or his invention is far more noticeable than elsewhere.

For instance, Messrs. Blizzard, Fairweather, Thunderbolt and Rein have taken out patents for improvements in weather devices. Mr. Snow has patented a sleigh, while Mr. Cutter has an improved runner for Mr. Snow's sleigh. Later Mr. Cutter took out a patent for an ice-cutter. Mr. Break has a patent for a break-shoe, Mr. Buck for a new species of buckle, and Mr. Jack for a bootjack. Mr. G. P. Gunn has invented a breech-loading rifle, while Mr. Candy, doubtless inspired by his name, invented some candy tablets.

Mr. Drybread has on record at the Patent Office a new brand of wheat flour, which, if his name is any advertisement of his wares, must sell very poorly. Mr. Braiser invented a stone firepot and stoker, while Mr. Bolt has a patent for a combination lock. Mr. McTamanny has a novel voting machine, Mr. Horse has gone into the racing business and invented a fast-driving rein, and Mr. Larson has a patent burglar alarm.

Mr. Husbands, who, by the way, is unmarried, has perfected a baby jumper, while Mr. Girl has patented a baby-walker. Mr. Carr has a patent for a car-mover, and Mr. Gatewood has a novel gate on the market. Mr. Daubenspeck has a washing machine, Mr. Mustard an improved spicebox, Sticky a delectable molasses candy, and Ring a new kind of curtain ring. Mr. Flour casts on the world a new flour bin, while Mr. Duckering has a model incubator, and Mr. Turnipseed a new fertilizer. Mr. Corn follows with a new cornhusker, and Mr. Wheelwright with a patent wheel. Mr. Split has a device for sealing splits in punctured wheels, and Mr. Wax has another for the same purpose.

Mr. Penman has originated an eraser, and Mr. Pencil a notebook, Mr. Sober a barrel tap, and Mr. Blaze a fire extinguisher.

These are only a few of the many cases on record in this big United States curiosity shop, in which the name of the inventor and that of his invention seemingly fit each other exceedingly well, but time and space would fail long before we should reach the end of the list, so we will not longer tax the patience of the reader.

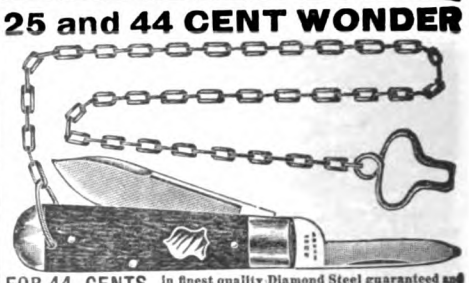
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THE GIANT OXIE CO., Box 1120, Augusta, Maine.

IN BANANA LAND.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



I WONDER how many of the boys and girls who may read this article know that the banana tree throws up its first green shoot, grows into a tree of full size, bears a single bunch of fruit, dies and is cut down all within a year? Thus brief is the life of the banana tree. The culture of the banana and the harvesting of the fruit for the market is a very interesting process to those who visit the tropics where the banana reaches the highest state of perfection. By far the greater part of the bananas shipped to America come from the West Indies, and the island of Jamaica is wonderfully productive of this fruit. Thousands of bunches of bananas are shipped to the United States from Jamaica every year, and the cultivation of the fruit is now the chief industry of that island of about six hundred thousand inhabitants. This island once so famous for the production of rum and sugar is now given over almost wholly to the cultivation of bananas, cocoanuts, oranges, lemons, and many kinds of tropical fruits never seen in America because they are too perishable to ship so far. The banana, as you may know, is cut from the tree when green and it ripens while enroute to America or after its arrival here. It is never allowed to ripen on the trees for if it were it could not be shipped at all.

The cultivation of the banana is very simple. The trees are grown in regular rows just as corn is grown in America. The rows are about fifteen feet apart, and the trees stand within about fifteen feet of each other in the rows. Holes a foot or more deep are dug in the rows and a banana sucker, or root, is put into this hole and covered entirely over with soil. In about a month a pale green shoot quite like a blade of corn comes peeping through the soil. This is speedily followed by more green shoots until there is a little circle of them which is called the "banana mat." Not all of these green shoots are allowed to live. All but three or four of them are cut away just as the American farmer would cut away some of the stalks of corn if there should happen to come three or four dozen stalks in a hill.

The banana field must be kept free from weeds, and the natives are constantly at work with the hoe or the machete clearing out the weeds which are naturally very abundant in a tropical climate. The machete is used far more than the hoe. Indeed, the machete seems to be the one tool of the common laborer in the West Indies. It is a sort of a cutlass or knife from fifteen inches to two feet in length and from two to three inches in width with a wooden or perhaps a horn handle. (See initial.) The native of Jamaica makes it serve purposes for which the American would never think of using it, and it is the only tool most of the natives ever use in the cultivation of the banana. When weeding with it the laborer must kneel on the ground and thrust the long blade under the roots of the weeds in order to pull the weed up. It is a slower and harder process than would be necessary with the hoe, but the black man of Jamaica does not take kindly to innovations and the machete of his father and of his grandfathers is good enough for him. Moreover, he is not in the slightest hurry to get his work done. The natives of tropical climates know not the meaning of the word "hurry." Nothing could induce them to "hustle," and it is estimated that it requires three of them to do the work that one man in America would do in a day.

The banana tree grows with such wonderful rapidity that it generally attains its full size within a year. It is then about twenty-five feet high while its leaves sometimes attain a length of fifteen feet and are nearly three feet in width.

The leaves are so brittle that they soon become shredded by the wind and the tree presents rather a ragged appearance. After twelve or fifteen of the large leaves have appeared a small leaf rises above them as the forerunner of the blossom of the banana tree. The blossom is very large and of a dark plum color. It does not unfold into a flower, but after a few days its stalk begins to bend over toward the ground and its leaves begin to drop off and the tiny green fruit begins to form.

A somewhat singular thing is the fact that the ends of the bananas not attached to the stalk point upward when the bunch is on the tree and not downward as when the fruit is seen hanging in the American markets. In harvesting the fruit the man who is to gather it takes his machete and cuts a gash in the tree as far up as he can reach. This causes the upper part of the tree with the heavy bunch of bananas on it to drop downward until the man can easily reach the bunch of fruit which he severs from the tree with a single blow of his machete. The fruit is then lifted into a cart drawn by a mule and carried to the wharf to be shipped to American or English ports. There is no regular season for the production of the banana although they are more abundant some months than others. But one may see bananas being harvested any month of the year in the tropics.

The loading of banana boats is an interesting sight. At many ports the boats are loaded



A BANANA GROWER'S HOME.

entirely by the black women of the island. Hundreds of them assemble at the wharves where the boats are to be loaded. All of them are barefooted and they are ragged beyond belief. They form in long lines and march up the gang plank with great bunches of bananas on their heads. Indeed, they carry everything on their heads. They are for the most part small women and it is surprising to see them stand perfectly erect while a bunch of bananas weighing perhaps eighty or one hundred pounds is flung upon their heads by two men. They march away under this burden perfectly erect and with no indication that it is any



BANANA WOMEN OF JAMAICA.

great strain on them to carry such a weight. They are paid twenty-five cents for every hundred bunches of bananas they carry on the boat, and as they cannot get employment more than two or three days in a week their earnings are very small. Fortunately for them their wants are simple. They live in little bamboo huts with thatched roofs, and live chiefly on the tropical fruits growing in such abundance around them. They are, however, inordinately fond of dress, and most of their small earnings are spent for cheaply gorgeous clothing and gewgaws of every sort. They have the fondness of the average negro for bright colors, and they present a truly gorgeous appearance when they fare forth in their "Sunday best." One would not recognize them as the barefooted, dirty and fearfully bedraggled creatures who load the banana boats or work in the fields on other days. They will spend the profits of days of labor for a showy silk parasol or a pair of white kid shoes or gorgeous hat.

The visitor to a tropical country will find much that is interesting, while the vegetation is very beautiful, but he will be very likely to come to the conclusion after a sojourn of a few weeks in the tropics, that his native land is best, and that it is more delightful to visit a tropical country than it is to make it his permanent abode.

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Decoration Day has a new and added significance in the last two years. Time had softened the sorrow of those for whose dead the day was set aside. It had become a day of sad and tender memories. Now its flowers can but cover the fresh brown earth on the graves of these latest ones who have died for the Union. The pain is too sharp and too new to admit of words. The nation is brought face to face with the keen sense of individual and personal loss. We may speak of the bravery in after years; now we can only drop the flowers silently.

The Shah of Persia is to set out upon his travels during the latter part of this month. He will make a short stay in Moscow, a longer one in St. Petersburg and then visit Berlin. The Paris Exposition is the next point and then England. He returns by way of Vienna and Constantinople. Students of Eastern affairs read a political signification in this seeming pleasure trip. The comparatively long stay in Russia with the after visit in Turkey suggests to some that Russia means to force Turkey into some concessions in regard to Eastern Asia Minor.

The Rev. Mr. Sheldon's newspaper venture has made more discussion than any "newspaper doings" in the history of printing. Professional newspaper men have gravely discussed the difference between "news" and "information." The result of the symposium seems to be that information is news old enough to have been crystalized into truth. When news lives to attain its majority it becomes information and in a few years history. Mr. Sheldon, therefore, could hardly be said to have published a newspaper—rather it was a bureau of information. His leading articles were either essays or information. The old struggle between the practical and the ideal was supposed to have a revival in this paper. However, but few people could bring themselves to say that this was an ideal newspaper and no one believed that it was practical.

COMFORT urged the establishment of "school gardens" more than a year ago and outlined the plan of their use as shown in the school gardens of Germany. They are as much a part of the regular instruction there as text books are in our schools. The rural schools might seem to have less use for these gardens than the schools of the town or city, but as a matter of fact they have quite as great a need of the systematic botanical instructions as city schools and for very practical reasons. Many of the pupils attending the rural schools will become farmers and all instruction in plant life has a practical as well as an ethical and educational value to them. The pupil of the city school may never make practical use of the knowledge but it has a part in his mental and moral development. The idea is new in this country but it is bound to grow. The United States Department of Agriculture now publishes a pamphlet upon the subject of School Gardens. COMFORT trusts that its pioneer work in endeavoring to interest the people in this idea may induce its readers to send for the pamphlet and make practical application of the suggestions contained.

A new thing under the sun is to be developed in New York. At least the idea in the completeness that is to be given it is new. This is the Hall of Fame. A sum of money has been given to Columbia College to build a lofty colonnade hall to connect two of the large buildings of the University. One hundred and fifty panels are to be placed there, inscribed with the names of men worthy of a record. The first fifty names are to be inscribed at once and new names added at regular intervals. It is suggested that members of the American Historical Association be the ones placed upon this committee. Statues, busts and inscriptions may be added. It will be interesting to note what names are among the first fifty selected. Already the "unquiet sex" has made its claim to a share and a place in the Hall of Fame. It is more than hinted that the donor of the money is Miss Helen Gould. No doubt an analysis of the lives of many of the men whose names will be preserved on the honor rolls of the Hall would show some woman's influence and inspiration as a means to success. It would seem that there should be no adverse opinions as to woman's right and claim in the Hall of Fame.

New England, with its old traditions of culture and education, is sometimes lacking in a sense of humor. It is doubtful if an intense serious person occupied in inventing religions or discussing soul problems can have a sense of humor, or even if the Puritans tap root could produce so delicate a flower. A Yale professor stated that ninety per cent. of the marriages of the country were unhappy. Forthwith the air buzzed with the protests and explanations and deductions of people who felt that this was a subject that they knew something about. On top of this comes the grave statement that the legislature of Massachusetts plans to frame a law that shall make it necessary for any man who wishes to marry out of the state to procure a special permit. All this evidently with minds kindly concerned as to the fate of the seventy thousand unappropriated blessings of the state. The statement of the professor and the action of the legislature make a strange combination. It may be that the learned legislature found some relation between the ninety per cent. who find marriage a failure and the evident tendency to bring "imported" brides into the country. They seem to forget that the power to regulate imports and exports rests with Congress but would even be unconstitutional in order to be locally gallant.

The World's Conference of Missionaries has just found its sessions in New York. It is the first time that this great body consisting of over two thousand delegates has met in the United States. It represents all organized forms and fields of missionary work. The American Board of Foreign Missions of Boston is the oldest of the organizations in the United States. No gathering presents the peculiar features of interest that this body does. Aside and apart from its religious work it contributes largely to the sum of geographical and historical knowledge. Its delegates have penetrated portions of the globe unknown to white men. They have the most accurate knowledge of the customs, habits, modes of thinking and living among savage and semi-barbarous nations. A compilation of their observations would make a most valuable contribution to folk lore. The man or woman who lives among "strange people" as one of them acquires the most careful and exhaustive knowledge of existing conditions possible to attain. The adventures of these men would be more thrilling than the wildest romance. The magnitude of the missionary work is imperfectly comprehended. The average church goer contents himself by showing some slight pecuniary interest in "Missionary Sunday" but even the most indifferent have had their interest aroused by this great meeting of men from the uttermost parts of the earth.

Russian rule in Finland is having its veritable results. In thousands, in tens of thousands the Finlanders are leaving their native land and seeking homes elsewhere. It is estimated that over fifty-five thousand Finnish farmers will come to the United States and Canada during the summer. The general impression is that in the Finlanders we shall have a very desirable class of immigrants. They do not crowd into the cities, being skilled in the cultivation of the soil. They are industrious, frugal and law abiding and possess a high average of intelligence. The movement for the Russianizing of Finland awakened much interest in this country and many appeals on behalf of Finland were made. The silent, crushing paw of the Russian Bear did not falter and to-day Finland does not exist except in history. It has ceased to be a Grand Duchy, the office of Assistant Minister of State for Finland at St. Petersburg has been abolished and Finland is not represented at the Court. The autonomy of the nation promised by the Czar's father has been abolished in theory and fact. It was said that the people would give up their country when it was no longer theirs and the statistics of immigration will amply bear out this statement. Those who love their native land enough to leave it when it is no longer free will make good citizens of a free country.

The large fund raised for the widow of Gen. Lawton and the plans to raise a similar subscription for Mrs. Henry directs public attention to the justice of a change in our existing pension laws as applied to officers of long standing. In almost every other nation of the world a small private fortune is considered necessary before the young man chooses the army or navy as a profession. As a consequence the salary of the position seems amply sufficient for family needs. With us it is the exception for officers to have private means. Our salaries are small when we consider the financial demands that the nomadic life renders necessary. The family of an officer must be supported in a style becoming his rank. As a result the income is barely sufficient for the daily needs and nothing is left if the husband or father dies. In the case of both these officers of high rank the family was left without means and the government pension is too small to support any family. Private subscription has endeavored to remedy this in two cases. The gifts are generous and sincere expressions of the feeling of the nation but they should not be necessary. There are many widows of officers as deserving as these that have received this public expression of interest and good will. The law should be changed so that the pay of an officer or at least two-thirds of it should be the right of his widow during her life time. We have given thousands of dollars to aid the soldiers of the "Widow of Windsor." This is well but it is better to remember our own—both officers and men have families who miss the care and protection of dead heroes. Let the united and expressed sentiment of the nation speak for these.



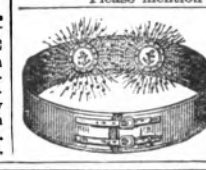
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165	American Liberty March	Cook
101	Ancients Abroad. March—Two Step	Cook
247	Artist's Life Waltzes	Strauss
181	Auld Lang Syne. Variations	Darkee
187	Austrian Song. Op. 69, 1	Pacher
215	Battle of Waterloo. Descriptive	Anderson
179	Beauties of Paradise Waltz. 4 hands	Streabbog
227	Beautiful Blue Danube Waltzes	Strauss
65	Bells of Corneville. Potpourri	Elson
213	Black Hawk Waltzes	Walsh
257	Blue Bells of Scotland. Trans.	Richards
221	Bluebird Echo Polka	Morrison
199	Boston Commandery March	Carter
109	Bridal March from Lohengrin	Wagner
229	Bryan and Sewall March	Noles
133	Cadences and Scales in all Keys	Czerny
1	Catherine Waltzes	Stroh
255	Cavaleria Rusticana. Four hands.	Mascagni
237	Cherokee Roses Waltz. 4 hands.	Behr
145	Clayton (Adjutant) March—Two Step	Missud
217	Cleveland's March	Noles
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211	Corn Flower Waltzes	Coote, Jr
41	Crack Four March	Ashton
71	Crystal Dew Waltz	Durkee
235	Day Dawn Polka	Cook
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117	Echoing Trumpets March	Noles
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107	Ethel Polka	Simons
155	Evergreen Waltz	Stoddard
231	Faust. Selections	Durkee
77	Fifth Nocturne	Leybach
233	Flirting in the Starlight. Waltz	Lasalle
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97	Fresh Life	Spindler
177	Frolic of the Frogs.	Watson
49	Full of Ginger. March Galop.	Nutting
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33	Greeting of Spring. op. 21	Schultze
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17	Impassioned Dream Waltzes	Rosas
153	Jenny Lind polka Four hands	Muller
157	Last Hope. Meditation	Gottschalk
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159	Lee's (Gen'l) "On to Cuba" galop	Durkee
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99	Maiden's Prayer, The	Badarzewske
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61	Morning Star Waltz	Zahn
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175	National Songs of America	Blake
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123	Old Folks at Home. Transcription	Blake
171	Old Oaken Bucket, The. Variations	Durkee
219	On the Wave Waltz	Dinsmore
197	Oregon, Queen of the Sea. Two-step	Robinson
245	Orvetta Waltz	Spencer
9	Our Little Agnes. Waltz	Gregoire
191	Over the Waves Waltz	Rosas
79	Please Do Waltz	Durkee
193	Poet and Peasant Overture (Suppe)	Brunner
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31	Song of the Voyager	Paderewski
22	Souvenir March Song of 1895 K. T. Parade	Dow
95	Spirit Lake Waltz	Simons
151	Storm, The. Imitation of Nature	Weber
73	Storm Mazurka	Keefer
103	Sultan's Band March.	Brown
209	Sweet Long Ago Transcription	Blake
115	Tornado Galop	Arbuckle
103	Trifet's Grand March, op. 182	Wedel
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59	Wedding March	Mendelssohn
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119	Woodland Whispers Waltzes	Stanley
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No.	VOICE AND PIANO OR ORGAN.	
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2	Annie's Love. Duet for Sop. and Ten.	Winter
27	Ave Maria. From Cavalleria Rusticana	Mascagni
140	Beacon Light of Home	Estabrooke
134	Beautiful Moonlight. Duet	Glover
238	Bells of Seville	H. Jude
162	Ben Bolt, of "Trilby" fame	Kneass
226	Blue Eyes	Elson
246	Boyhood Days, Chorus	Fritz
200	Bridge, The. Words by Longfellow	Carew
192	Can You, Sweetheart, Keep a Secret?	Estabrooke
214	Childhood's Happy Hours	Dinsmore
138	Christmas Carol	Turner
190	Come When the Soft Twilight Falls	Schumann
168	Coon's Breach of Promise. Cake walk	Blake
92	Cow Bells, The. Boyhood's Recollection	Grimm
250	Darling I Shall Miss You	Cohen
176	Darling Nellie Gray	Hanby
70	Dear Heart, We're Growing Old	Estabrooke
128	Don't drink, my Boy, tonight. Temp.	Hoover
256	Dwelling with the Angels. Chorus.	Turner
50	Easter Eve. Sacred	Gounod
220	Ever Sweet is Thy Memory	Hosfeld
19	'E Dunno Where 'E Are. Comic	Eplett
72	Ellaline. Waltz song	Betts
180	Far Away	Elisa
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156	Flag, The. Quartette	Fox
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8	Flossie. Waltz Song	Cohen
138	For a Dream's Sake	Cowen
36	For the Colors. Patriotic	Wilson
66	For You We are Praying at Home	Estabrooke
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204	Golden Moon	Ivan
150	Gypsy Countess. Duet	Glover
198	Heart of My Heart	Robinson
184	I Can't Forget the Happy Past	Skelly
74	In Sweet September	Temple
248	In Shadowland	Pinsuti
188	In the Starlight. Duet	Glover
28	Juanita. Ballad	May
242	Kathleen Mavourneen	Crouch
196	Killarney	Balfe
132	Kiss me, but don't say goodbye	Rutledge
130	Kiss that bound my Heart to thine	Keil
164	Larboard Watch. Duet	Williams
146	Listen to the Mocking Bird	Hawthorne
48	Little Boy Blue. Solo or Duet	Estabrooke
154	Little Voices at the Door	Danks
96	Lost Chord, The	Sullivan
40	Love Ever Faithful	Bucalossi
25	Lurline, Do you think of me now?	Estabrooke
234	Margaretta	Talfe
112	Massa's Sleeping in de Churchyard	Keefer
230	Memories of my Mother. Chorus	Allen
30	Mission of a Rose, The. Song	Cowen
52	Mother's Cry, A. (Salvation Army)	Adriance
172	Mother's Welcome at the Door	Estabrooke
222	Musical Dialogue Duet	Helmund
232	Must the Sweet Tie that binds	Estabrooke
76	My Home by the Old Mill	O'Halloran
110	My Little Lost Irene	Danks
170	My Old Kentucky Home	Foster
216	Oh, Sing Again that Gentle Strain,	Dinsmore
228	Old Folks at Home (Swanee Ribber)	Foster
60	Old Glory, National	Woods
102	Old Sexton, The	Russell
104	On the Banks of the Beautiful River	Estabrooke
90	On the Beach. Most beautiful ballad	Robinson
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174	Parted from our Dear Ones	Keller
254	Picture of My Mother, The	Skelly
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56	Precious Treasure. Song and Dance	Weiler
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208	Rocked in the Cradle of the Deep	Knight
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80	See Those Living Pictures	Guth
224	Shall I Ever See Mother's Face Again?	Adriance
194	She Sleeps among the Daisies	Dinsmore
124	Softly shine the Stars of Evening	Dinsmore
210	Son's Return, The	Fritz
120	Storm at Sea. Descriptive	Lullah
10	Sweetest Song, The	Denza
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46	That Word was Hope. Waltz song	Nutting
118	There's a Rainbow in the Clouds	Danks
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108	Tread softly the Angels are calling	Turner
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58	When the Roses are Blooming Again	Skelly
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186	Whistling Wife, The. Comic	Tandall
212	Why am I ever Watching	deLasoide
218	Why do Summer Roses Fade	Barker

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Destroying Church Organs.

At the present time we can hardly realize the bitterness with which the Puritans pursued anything connected with Roman Catholic belief. The reaction had come and from the extreme of ritualism and art in worship the reformers went to the other extreme of simplicity and bareness. Although Luther believed in music, the later reformers considered it as a part of Popery and attempted to crush it out. In the year 1664 the Roundheads destroyed the organs in the churches and cathedrals throughout England. When the pipes were torn from the organ at Westminster Abbey, the mob of fanatics set up the cry, "Hark! how the organs go!" and "Mark what musick that is, that is lawful for a Puritan to dance to." Strange as it may appear for the sake of consistency, the metal of the pipes was sold and the money so obtained was used to purchase ale to treat the men who destroyed the organs.

Much to the delight of musical people Grand Opera in English is to be thoroughly tried this autumn in the Metropolitan Opera House in New York, under the direction of the best leaders. Many people have declared that the prevailing idea that English does not lend itself to correct music has been sufficiently exploded by the use of German in opera; and that it is affectation to insist on Italian or French libretto.

Such an opportunity to obtain a musical bargain is seldom found. To get a full idea of this chance to obtain the best of sheet music almost as a gift, read the music offer in another column. Money promptly refunded if not as offered.

England's latest composer of prominence is Fritz Delius. As his name indicates he is of German parentage, and he studied at Leipsic and Paris conservatories. He was, however, born and brought up in Yorkshire, England. On this account England will be able to claim him as her own should he become as famous as his present work promises. At a later date probably no less than three nationalities will claim him for their own.



WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



THE golf toque which we show in our illustration is just as useful in the summer as in the colder weather, even though it is made of wool. What is needed is simply a covering for the top of the head, and this fills that purpose and is also extremely becoming to most girls—which certainly cannot be said of the wide rimmed gray felt hats so much worn on the links. Of course these hats with the wide rims, as also the old-fashioned sunbonnets, keep the sun off the face and out of the eyes, which is the only thing in their favor, for while the hats are unbecoming, the sunbonnets are the hottest things imaginable, and altogether the little golf toque is quite the neatest and at the same time most comfortable of anything yet suggested for head covering while on the links. To crochet the toque, chain 4 and join. Then 2 single crochet in each stitch, inserting hook through the whole stitch. Next row, 1 single crochet in each stitch. Continue in this way, keeping the crown round and flat by making 2 single crochet whenever it seems too tight or draws in. Twenty-one rows will be large enough for most heads. When the crown is finished, catch down tight in last stitch of round, make 1 chain, skip 2, 1 double crochet in next hole, 1 chain, skip 2, 3 double crochet in next, with 1 chain between each; 1 chain, skip 2, 1 double crochet in next, 1 chain, skip 2, 3 double crochet in next. Continue in this way until there are four groups of 3 double crochet. Then continue 1 chain, skip 2, 1 double crochet, etc. Next row, work the same way, 1 chain, 1 double crochet in each space. In each group of 3 double crochet, make 4 double crochet, that is 2 double crochet in each side of 3 double crochet with 1 chain between each. To commence the wind-over border, hold hook with stitch on it between the thumb and first and second fingers of left hand, wind wool over 9 times if two colors are used, 18 times if one color is used. If two colors are used, join second color when the wind-over border is begun, slip finger out, catch tight with one stitch, 1 chain, 1 catch down in first space, 1 chain, wind again and so on, all around, putting a wind-over in each space. Work the same way on upper row, so as to have two rows of wind-overs in the two rows of spaces made by the border of double crochet. Run a piece of round hat wire through fullness made by winding, draw up, insert aigrette or ornament. Draw up crown on wrong side to cover ends of wire and put in a few stitches with large needle and wool to hold pompon in place.

Hat-pins are inconveniently long for the ordinary pincushion. Our illustration shows a useful little ornament to hang on the side of the mirror, which is intended for just this purpose. To make one, take one of the little Japanese dolls that cost five cents; half a yard of satin ribbon, two and one-half inches wide, and a yard and a half of half-inch ribbon, the same shade or in a contrasting color. The wide satin is made into a garment by taking the two ends and bringing them up around the neck of the doll and sewing close around the neck. Then the narrow ribbon is put around the neck, crossed in front, and one end wound around the waist and a big bow tied in the back—one of the loops being long enough to extend up above the head of the doll, and this is used to hang it up by. The doll's arms are brought out from between the two thicknesses of ribbon, between the neck and waist, and thus very respectable sleeves are formed. Now a piece of cotton batting, (several thickness) should be inserted smoothly between the two thicknesses of ribbon below the waist, and the edges of the ribbon sewed up over and over, catching the cotton in, occasionally, to hold it in place. The one here illustrated was made of yellow satin ribbon, and the materials cost about thirty cents.



HAT-PIN CUSHION.

Here is a way of using up odd bits of worsted and yarn. Take large steel needles and cast on twelve stitches and knit back and forth until you have a piece a yard and a quarter in length or longer. Mix the colors as well as possible in order to have a hit or miss effect. The colors may also be knitted separately and arranged in any conventional design. After binding off, double the knitted piece and sew on to a piece of ticking. The ticking should be of proper length and width for a mat. After the piece of knitting is firmly sewed on ticking, with linen thread, cut through the middle of the knitted strip and it will ravel prettily. Continue to sew on pieces, covering the ticking closely. This is a durable, pretty mat. Shake it up once in a while to prevent its matting together.

There is probably no more satisfactory way of adjusting the bands of the shirt waist and skirt so that there shall be no slipping or sagging, than by means of three hooks and eyes sewed to the middle of the back and at a distance of about two and a half inches on each side. For wool waists this method is thoroughly satisfactory, but for wash waists there is always more or less trouble resulting from the ironing of the metal fasteners. If the hooks are sewed to the waist they are almost sure to be ironed down flat; if the eyes are used on the waist they are apt in a short time to make a rusty spot upon the goods, and are frequently bent out of shape or are sometimes ironed off, taking a piece of the goods with them. But one ingenious woman has solved the difficulty, and has invented for her own use a simple arrangement which seems perfectly adapted to the purpose. She stitches a narrow band across the back of the shirt waist, and in place of sewing eyes upon it she punches three small holes with a stiletto, bastes three very small rings over these openings and buttonholes all around the rings through the goods. The hooks of the skirt are caught in these quite as readily as into the metal eyes, and they are always in place and in shape, and remain firm and strong as long as the waist lasts. It is worth trying.



A GOLF TOQUE.

A hat bag for home use or to carry when traveling, is one of the modern conveniences which up-to-date women are enjoying. The bag is made with a round bottom about the size of an ordinary hat crown. This is of two pieces of cardboard covered smoothly with silk or satin of a dark shade. Any goods which will not catch dust readily may be substituted. The sides of the bag are made from a long straight piece of the material fifteen inches deep when finished. This piece should be long enough to be gathered full to the circular bottom, and should have a casing at the upper edge with a heading left above it. The ends should be joined in a seam. The lower edge should be gathered and sewed to one of the circular pieces, then the other circular piece should be added and hemmed down all around. This covers the narrow gathered edge by bringing it between the two parts of the bottom, and gives a neat finish. Ribbons should be run in the casing near the top to gather the bag closely. Such a bag is of the greatest convenience in traveling, for the hat can be placed in it when it is taken off for the night, and the bag may be hung up quite out of the way. The hat is thus protected from dust and the ill-usage which it is apt to receive in the crowded quarters of a berth. Such a bag, made from black satin, was recently given to a bride who expected to spend some time in travel, and to the bag was added a silver mounted hat brush. It was found to be one of the most convenient articles of her entire outfit.

NOT long ago a sparrow flew into a machine shop, and getting near one of the large wheels was drawn in; one of the workmen saw it, and immediately shut off the power, supposing of course that the bird would be dead when it came out, but, notwithstanding that the wheel was revolving at the rate of 130 revolutions a minute, the bird was taken out alive and chirping. It had clung to the strengthening rod inside the wheel and was so dazed it could not fly, but recovered in a short time and flew away. During the time the sparrow was on the wheel it traveled 73 miles, as the wheel made 31,000 revolutions.

THE X-Ray has performed a miracle in restoring to a child in Chicago the use of her eyes and limbs. Two years ago the child was playing on a porch and fell to the sidewalk, striking on her head. The fall left her totally blind and her right side was paralyzed. The X-Rays were applied and revealed a tumor pressing on the brain. The skull was trepanned and the tumor removed. The child was able to move her limbs on recovering consciousness, and has since regained her sight.

Snakes, in captivity, it seems, find difficulty in getting rid of the skin which is shed every year, as, when it gets as far as the eyes the snake is rendered blind and usually suffers intensely. Recently a man seeing a snake in this condition, got the keeper to hold it while he took a pair of small scissors and performed the operation of removing the membrane which adhered to the eyes. The operation was perfectly successful, and has since that time often been performed, thus saving the sight and in many cases the life of many a snake.

A Lady Reader Tells How She Made Money to Build a Home.

I often read of ladies who work hard helping to support their families and for their benefit, I will relate how easily I manage to make a living and save money. I had been using Baird's Flavoring Powders myself and knew they were splendid, so I sent for a sample and tried selling them. I found it so pleasant and easy that I kept right at it and never make less than $3.50 per day; and often clear $5.00. The powders go twice as far as the liquid extracts sold in the stores and are much stronger. They are made of pure fruit juices. I sell from two to eight Flavors in each house. They are used for Cakes, Custards, Ices, etc. They give perfect satisfaction to the most fastidious cooks and every one who tries them becomes a permanent customer for me. Any one who would like to make money easy should try selling the Flavors. You can get full particulars by writing to the manufacturers W. H. Baird & Co., 248 Century Bldg., St. Louis, Mo. They will give you a start. I have built a home from the proceeds of my sales, support my family and have comforts we never had before. M. B.

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CURES
Female Troubles, Stooping Posture, Inflammations, Internal Pains, Tired Feeling, Backache, Weak Lungs, Nervousness.

TRIAL FREE.



It will make you comfortable, buoyant, happy—give you ability to work and enjoy life. It is simple, wholly external, adjustable to any figure. Worn with or without corset.

We have over 15,000 letters like this:
Chandler, Okla., July 27, 1899.
Your Brace did all you said about it and more, for me. It has saved me a big doctor's bill and brought me good health, which I had not had before in 25 years. My troubles were dropsy, headache, lung disease, stomach and other ills to which women are subject. MRS. L. B. DICKINSON.

Write today for particulars and illustrated book mailed free in plain sealed envelope. Address
The Natural Body Brace Co., Box 27, Salina, Kansas.
Every woman should have this Brace.

$14 If You Want to **SAVE MONEY** and get the best machine at lowest wholesale price, now is your chance. Buy direct from factory, one profit. All attachments free. 30 days' free trial. WARRANTED 20 YEARS.



$40.00 Arlington for.....$14.00
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$65.00 Kenwood for.....$21.50
Other Machines at $9, $10.50 & $12
Illustrated catalog and testimonials free. CASH BUYERS' UNION,
158-164 W. Van Buren St., B-5, Chicago, Ill.

$10 Silk Skirt REDUCED TO $8. Best Taffeta, any color, for 25c. Send 25c. for coupon and particulars. Reference Jeff. National Bank. Garland Silk Skirt Co., Box 421, Watertown, N.Y.

FREE THIS BANGLE RING with initial engraved, warranted to wear three years, to anyone sending us 10c. for our Bargains in Jewelry. Shell Novelty Co., Dept. K, 194 Broadway, New York.

I WAS **DEAF** AND FRANTIC WITH **HEAD NOISES** I tried every known treatment and device without help. Finally I cured myself by Galvanic Electricity. If you are deaf, or growing deaf, or have head-noises, don't waste time and money as I did. Write me and I will gladly send you full information free. Address with stamp. W. J. TINDALL, over Postoffice, COHOES, N. Y.

$3.50 DUEBER



SEND NO MONEY For our magnificently engraved double hunting case watch of Gold alloy with extra 14 karat gold plate, equal in appearance to any 35 dollar watch. Movement is the best make, fully jeweled, duplex escapement, quick train, patent pinion, accurately regulated and adjusted and Sold with Written POSITIVE **20 YEAR GUARANTEE** Railroadmen all over the country buy this watch, on account of its durability and timekeeping qualities. Our wholesale factory price is $42.00 per doz., but we will send you one sample for free inspection. If fully satisfied pay $3.50 and express charges, otherwise not one cent. State nearest express office and if Ladies' or Gents' watch. **FREE** with first order from each town a handsome Chain & Charm worth retail $1. Catalogue free.
EXCELSIOR WATCH CO., 66 Central Bank Bldg., CHICAGO.

Tailor Made Suit $5.98

SILK LINED JACKET



Latest Style for Spring and Summer of 1900.
FINE ALL WOOL The suit will be made to measure by skilled tailors from Evans best all wool ALBERT CLOTH, famous for its rich bloom and beautiful weave. The Jacket is made in new single breasted style, beautifully lined with fine imported silk, elegantly silk faced and superbly trimmed with pure satin ribbon. The skirt is cut full width, is lined and interlined, has latest style back, nobby welted seams, hangs graceful and stylish. Guaranteed strictly tailor made and worth fully $10.00. Choice of black and blue colors.
SEND THIS ADV. to us and we'll send free a large sample of the cloth and our big catalog containing many other rare bargains in suits from $6 to to $20, and of jackets, capes and skirts all at wholesale prices. We make all grades and styles of ladies' garments and sell at lowest wholesale factory prices. Write today.
LADIES' SUITS FREE We give suits away free and furnish a suit to wear while you are earning one. Its a great chance to get a suit free. Send one 2-cent stamp to help pay mailing charges for complete outfit with which you can easily earn a suit. Write today.
THE LOUIS R. VEHON CO., 155 W. Jackson St., Chicago.
Please mention COMFORT when you write.

LADIES TO DO PLAIN SEWING AT HOME; $1.50 a day; four months work guaranteed; send stamped addressed envelope for particulars. R. W. HUTTON & Co., Dept. 4, Philadelphia, Pa.

FREE this genuine 14k. Rolled Gold Ring or a Band Ring. Bracelet, Hat Pin, Chatelaine, Knife, Shirt Waist Set, etc., to anyone who will sell 10 of our ROMAN GOLD STICK PINS at 10cts. each. They sell quickly at the price; suitable for ladies or gentlemen. No Money Required in Advance; just send your name and address saying you will sell the pins or return them and we will send them at once postpaid with large premium list of Watches, Chains, Opera Glasses, Clocks, etc. When sold you send us the money and we will send the premium you select. Our Premiums are the Best.



M. R. COMPANY, 79 Dearborn St., Dept. 64, Chicago

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It Won't Turn Silver to Gold, nor Turn Gold to Silver; but it Will Coin Dollars for You. Agents Wanted.

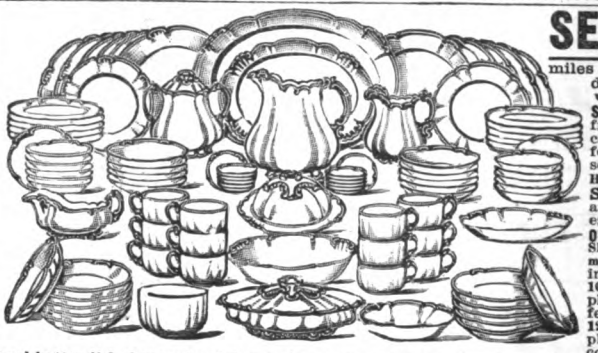
The Electro Polishing Cloth, a wonderful prepared cloth that gives electric brightness and lustre to every metal it touches. Without any powders or paste, simply by rubbing with this cloth, a brilliant lasting polish will be placed on Tableware, Gold, Silver, Nickel, Copper, Plated ware, Bicycles, Glass, etc. Bright, absolutely clean, and perfectly free from corrosive tarnish or dirt and will last. The Greatest Revolution in the Household. Takes the place of all Polishes, Powders, Pastes, Liquids and also Chamois Skins at less than one-quarter the cost. It is especially adapted for cleaning and polishing Metal or Glass Tableware.



Will Not Injure the Most Delicate Surface. It does not scratch! It works Wonders! and a child can use it! Will clean and polish just as well when black as when new. No matter how soiled the "cloth" may become, the black will not rub off and soil the hands. Can be used until entirely worn out. A moist portion will clean and a dry portion polish until the cloth is worn threadbare. Directions with every cloth. Simple and sure. Ready, Quick, Clean, Economical. The Greatest Invention of the Century.

A Bargain Offer to All. We want 20,000 agents to sell these cloths at fairs, campaign meetings, on the street, from house to house, everywhere. You can make $100 a month profit, young and old, both sexes. Sells like greased lightning. One sample cloth full size, sent free to anyone who will send only 10 cents for agents' prices and a paid three month's trial subscription to our charming family paper. The greatest introduction offer ever made; we will return money if not perfectly satisfied.
SUNSHINE, Box 551, AUGUSTA, MAINE.

SEND NO MONEY If you live within 1000 miles of Chicago, if over 1000 miles, send one dollar. CUT THIS AD. OUT and send to us, and we will send you this BIG NEW STYLE, 100-PIECE SEMI-VITREOUS WHITE CHINA DINNER SET by freight C. O. D., subject to examination. You can examine it at your freight depot, and if found perfectly satisfactory, exactly as represented and THE GREATEST VALUE YOU EVER HEARD OF, pay the freight agent our SPECIAL OFFER PRICE.... $5.25 and freight charges (or $4.25 and freight charges if $1.00 is sent with order). THIS SET CONSISTS OF 100 PIECES of the HIGHEST GRADE GENUINE SEMI-VITREOUS WHITE CHINA of the very latest and most stylish shape, is as hard as flint, practically indestructible, pure white in color. The following 100 Full-Size Pieces Complete the Set: 12 soup plates, 12 5-inch plates, 12 7-inch plates, 12 coffee cups, 12 saucers, 12 individual butter dishes, 12 4-inch fruit plates, 1 8-inch platter, 1 12-inch platter, 1 7-inch baker, 1 8-inch baker, 1 8-inch covered dish, 1 pickle dish, 1 sauce boat 1 covered butter dish, 1 sugar bowl, 1 extra bowl, 1 large pitcher, 1 medium pitcher. Freight will be about 50 cents for each 500 miles.



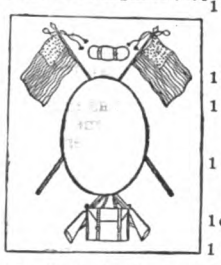
YOU WILL SAVE ONE-HALF IN PRICE. ORDER NOW. DON'T DELAY. WRITE FOR FREE CROCKERY CATALOGUE.
(Sears, Roebuck & Co. are thoroughly reliable.—Editor.) Address, SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO. (Inc.), Chicago.

The American Stamping Outfit

A choice collection of New and Seasonable Designs for Decorative Work.

The designs we give in this outfit cannot be duplicated in any art store for less than $5. This is fact, not fiction. The Outfit contains all the following designs:

1 Chinese Alphabet, 2x2 in. high.
1 Eccentric Alphabet, 1¾ in. high.
1 Floral and bow-knot design—Violets, for sofa pillow covers or table cover decorations, buffet scarfs, etc., 13x13 in.



1 Spray violets for doilies, 4x7 in.
1 Conventional design for jewel work, for square doilies or scarf ends, 4x8 in.
1 Conventional design for Bulgarian work, for scarf ends, or doily corners, 4x8 in.
1 design for medicine glass cover, with dial, 3x3 in.
1 border design of bow-knots, 1¼ in. wide.
1 Border design for flannel embroidery, 1 in. wide.
1 Empire design for picture frame, 6x6½ inches.
1 design for book mark, 3¼x3¼ inches.
1 design for tobacco pouch.
1 Border and corner design, Oriental, for table cover or lambrequin, etc., 7x7 inches.
1 design for lamp shade, Butterfly.
1 design, Tiger lily, 6½x10 inches.
1 Scallop border for flannel work, ¾ in. wide.
1 Empire corner design, with Fleur de Lis, 9x9 inches.
1 design for delph work, 2½x3 inches.
1 Wreath and bow-knot design for monogram, 3½x4 inches.
1 Spray of Mignonette, 6x6 inches.
1 Spray Lily of the valley, 2½x3 inches.
1 Empire design for twin picture frames, 10x12 inches.
1 Lily-of-the-valley and bow-knot design, 15x15 in.
1 design for penwiper with motto, 4x7 inches.
1 Floral spray for tea cloth or center piece, doilies, 6x8¼ inches.
1 Dog's head for art work, 1½x2 inches.
1 design of Mountain pine, with motto (see illustration), 11x14 inches.
1 design American flags, 7x7 inches.
1 design Poppies and leaves, 4x10 inches.
1 design for picture frame, American flags, etc. (see illustration), 8x10 inches.
1 Ribbon and floral design for monogram, 2x8½ in.
1 design Nasturtium, 2½x5½ inches.
1 Conventional design for art work, 4x5 inches.
1 Conventional corner design, for table covers, etc., 9x9 inches.
1 Patriotic design for sofa pillow, American and Cuban flags, knapsacks and guns, 16x16 inches.
1 Set of six doily designs, conventional patterns, 4x4 inches.
1 design for Cross stitch work, 3½x3½ inches.
1 Acorn design for scatter work.
1 Ribbon and Daisy design, 4x5 inches.
1 Conventional corner design 8x8 inches.



1 Floral and bow-knot doily design, 5x5 inches.

The patterns are made of linen bond paper, and consist of 9 sheets of patterns, each sheet 14x22 inches in size. As good as can be made.

With each outfit we send full instructions for doing the stamping, and one piece of EUREKA COMPOUND, enabling anyone to do permanent stamping, instantly, without heat or trouble. Your money back if you want it, but no one ever does.

FREE Send 25 cents for a year's subscription to this paper and we will forward one of these outfits free all charges paid. Address **LANE & CO., Augusta, Maine.**

TUSKEGEE AND ITS WORK.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



THE word Tuskegee has been seen so many times in print during the last ten years that many people who see it and do not know just what it stands for ask, "Just what is Tuskegee, and where is it?"

Tuskegee is the shire town of Macon county, Alabama. It is about forty miles southeast of Montgomery, the capital of Alabama, and one hundred and forty from Atlanta. It is reached from the North by way of the Southern Railroad to Atlanta, and by the Western of Alabama, from there. It is one of the oldest towns in the State. In fact it is said that when De Soto made his famous march inland from the sea he found an Indian village on the same site by the name of Toskigi.

When the word Tuskegee is seen in print now, it generally refers to the great Negro school there, established and built up by Booker T. Washington. This school is remarkable for many things, but three of the most important are that it is the greatest school wholly for colored people in the country, that its teachers are, like the pupils, all Negroes, and that over thirty practical trades are taught the students there by actual work. The students at Tuskegee now number over twelve hundred every year, and there are between eighty and ninety teachers.

A short article printed in COMFORT some time ago told something of Mr. Washington's life; how he was born a slave in Virginia, and struggled along until he worked his way to Hampton, and got an education there. While he was at Hampton he resolved that as soon as he was fitted to do so he would go into some place in the South where the Negroes seemed to be particularly ignorant and devote his whole life to giving them the same kind of help that had been given him at Hampton. In 1881 the Legislature of the State of Alabama appropriated money to establish a normal school for colored teachers, and Mr. Washington was selected as the teacher. He began his school there on the 4th of July, 1881, by gathering thirty untaught Negro men and women into an old shanty.

The new school had not been in progress long before the teacher made up his mind that his pupils needed to learn how to work, and how to take care of their bodies, quite as much as they needed to learn books. He felt that he needed to have an influence over them for a longer time than just during the hours of the school day. He found that he could buy a plantation of a hundred acres of land and a few old buildings a mile from Tuskegee. He borrowed the money of a friend at Hampton, bought the place and moved his school out there. So many new scholars began to want to come to the school that more buildings were needed.

There was a good clay pit on the place. Mr. Washington set some of the young men students to making bricks, and when the bricks were ready, to building a house with them. Other young men worked on the land, raising corn for food and cotton to be sold to buy things which could not be raised. A man in Massachusetts gave money to buy a horse, and a man in Tuskegee gave an outfit of tools for the brickyard. That has been one remarkable thing about this school. From the first the white people of the South have recognized the good work which it was doing in teaching the colored people how to do skilled, useful labor, and have helped it along. A small blacksmith shop was started, and then a wheelwright shop. The young women students did the housework, laundry work, and mending for all the school, and learned cooking and sewing. Friends in the North who heard Mr. Washington tell of the plans of the school gave more money, and this was made to go far. Nothing was bought which the students could make themselves. Even now they make all their own furniture, mattresses, etc.

From that beginning Tuskegee Institute has grown until now it owns twenty-five hundred acres of land, five hundred of which the students cultivate. It teaches such trades to the men, in addition to those I have mentioned, as carpentry, machine shop work, printing, shoe making, tailoring, tin-smithing, electrical engineering, and saw-mill work. Farming in all its branches is thoroughly taught. The young women learn, in addition to the trades I have spoken of, mattress making, dress making and millinery, nursing, poultry raising, dairy work, bee-keeping, the care of fruit trees and bushes, and the care of flower gardens and lawns.

The courses of study in these trades are just as carefully planned out and followed as are those in the academic classes. I copy from the school's catalogue the course for the first term of the second year in blacksmithing: "Horseshoeing. The condition of a shoeing floor. How to make a shoer's fire. The names and uses of shoeing tools. What and how to make a mould, also how to strike on a shoe. The names and sizes of shoes and nails, also the



CHAPEL AT TUSKEGEE.

different kinds of shoes. How to file a shoe, also how to pull off a shoe, trim a foot and clinch a shoe. The different parts of a foot and how to drive a nail. The different kinds of shoes that are used for horses with different ways of traveling. Special lessons in fitting to different shaped feet." Compositions are written on these subjects monthly. The blacksmith shop now is a building 38x61 feet, containing nine forges and all necessary tools. It is full of students all of the time, and when a man graduates he is able to set up a shop for himself. I have visited several men in different parts of the South who have done so.

I copy the first year's course of study in dressmaking. Before the girls can take this up they have to spend two years in the plain sewing room, or show an ability to do the work done there. "Choice of materials. Drafting and cutting foundation and outline skirts from measurement. Making, hanging, draping and trimming the skirt. Talks on form, line and proportion in relation to draping and trimming. Drafting, cutting and fitting plain basques, and the general finish of these garments." There are two more years' study in dressmaking.

These shops and classes turn out men and women who know their trades, and people all over the South are beginning to appreciate this. The school cannot begin to supply all the demands made upon it for skilled artisans. People from hundreds of miles away write to know if the Institute cannot furnish a good carpenter or blacksmith, or nurse or cook, and almost invariably the pay offered is good.

This industrial work is carried on in connection with the regular academic, and moral and religious training of any large school. There is an undenominational Bible School, in which each year about seventy-five Negro men and women, often ministers themselves, are trained to become more efficient church and Sunday-school workers. The academic department gives a thoroughly good English education, and has turned out a great many teachers who are doing good work all over the South. A great many men and women both have been inspired with Mr. Washington's spirits for a desire to work for their race, and have given their lives to found other schools where the Tuskegee principles can be extended. Such schools are the one at Snow Hill, Alabama, with over three hundred pupils, at Mt. Meigs, Alabama, with two hundred, at Denmark, South Carolina, with three hundred, at Eatonville, Florida, with over a hundred, and in a great many places where just as good work is being carried on upon a smaller scale. In all these schools, just as soon as they get large enough, the pupils are not only taught books, but to work.

The expense at Tuskegee is only $8 a month, for a furnished room, fuel, lights, laundry and board. No charge is made for tuition, because very few could pay it. The money for the support of the schools which this would represent, Mr. Washington secures from friends of the school and education who are willing to help him in his work. He is endeavoring now to secure a permanent endowment fund, from the income of which the school may be largely supported, so as to leave him free to devote his time and energy to the execution management.

Small as is the expense more than half of the students cannot afford to pay for it, and so they are allowed to work out their expenses. They work on the land, in the shops and brick yard, in the laundry, kitchen, offices, everywhere, and are allowed to a regular rate of pay, according to their ability. This is not paid them in money, but put to their credit. While they are at work in this way they go to school only in the evening. Usually two years work in this way will give a student enough credit so that he or she can go into the day school classes for the rest of their time at the school. Coming as most of these young people do out of homes or off of farms where they have had no systematic training in modern methods of work, the time they spend in this way under skilled instructors is really one of the most valuable parts of their education.

The school now has over four hundred graduates, and over three thousand under graduates, almost all of them doing good work throughout the South. There are now forty-four buildings large and small, on the school ground, and all but three of these have been built by the students themselves as a part of their industrial education. Among these is a magnificent modern brick church, capable of seating two thousand four hundred persons. When President McKinley visited Tuskegee, not long ago, he spoke to the students in this church.

One of the greatest features at Tuskegee is the annual Negro Conference which meets there in February of each year. This was begun by Mr. Washington, to see if something could not be done to help elevate the older generation of Negroes, the men and women who were most of them slaves, and who have had little or no chance to get an education. Ten years ago he invited about seventy-five farmers, mechanics, teachers and ministers to come to Tuskegee to spend a day discussing their conditions and needs. To his surprise four hundred men and women of all classes came in answer to this invitation, and the number has kept increasing ever since. Most of these people come from Alabama, but there are delegates now from every southern state, and the effect of these meetings is felt widely. Two hundred and fifty similar local conferences have been formed which meet during the year and report here. The people who come are hard working farmers and their wives, mainly. They discuss very practical matters. How to get homes and keep them. How to keep out of debt and clear of mortgages. The need of something better than a one-room hut for a home. Better schools, and teachers and ministers. Pay your taxes and stay off the streets.

The Negro women take just as much interest in the Conference as do the men, and frequently are among the most entertaining speakers. One woman reported an association formed by the women in her community to fight the mortgage evil. Every woman who joined it agreed not to wear any article of mortgaged clothing or eat any mortgaged food. After they got fairly started they pooled their money and began to buy cloth and groceries in quantities, dividing the goods among themselves. They had been much pleased with the success of this plan. They got lower prices and better measure.

One woman, when the Conference was discussing the evils of one-room cabin homes, got up and said: "I was a widow. I had two children and John had five. I married him and that made seven. He had only one room to his house. I told him he had to get more and he got them. I have one room 'specially for cooking, 'cause I don't propose to have everybody see what I cooks. I have learned a heap at this meeting here to-day. Let sardines and snuff and candy and red ribbons alone. Get your man to buy land, jest one acre at a time, if he can't buy more than that, and then have him work it. Some of you men jest want to put us women into the white folks' kitchens to work to feed you, while you walk up and down the roads."

Each delegate who came to the Conference of 1900 was given a printed list of things to remember and practice during the coming year—one for the men and another for the women.

Womanly Sense.

If a person is ill and needs a medicine, is it not wise to get one that has stood the test of time, and has hundreds of thousands of cures to its credit?

A great many women who are ill try everything they hear of. This seems to us unwise, for there are remedies which are no experiments, and have been known years and years to be doing great good. Take for instance **Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound**; for thirty years its record has been one unbroken chain of success. **No medicine for female ills this country has ever known has such a record for cures.**

We have published more genuine testimonial letters than have ever been published in the interest of any other medicine. All this should, and does, produce a spirit of confidence in the hearts of women which is difficult to dislodge, and when they are asked to take something else they say, "No, we want **Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound,** which has been tried, and never found wanting, whose reliability is established far beyond the experimental stage." (**See offer below.**)



Letters to Mrs. Pinkham from Women.

Female Weakness 15 Years.

"DEAR MRS. PINKHAM:—For fifteen years I suffered with every form of female weakness, and had almost given up hope of ever being well again, when a friend insisted that I try Lydia E. Pinkham's medicine. I took four bottles of the Vegetable Compound, and still I was sick and giving up again when the same friend prevailed upon me to try another bottle. I did so and began to get better right away, and now I never have any of my old pains, and consider myself cured. I think your remedies the best in the world for curing the troubles of women, and feel very thankful that I ever found such remedies. If any suffering woman wishes to write to me privately, I will be pleased to tell her about the benefits I derived from the use of your medicine."—MRS. E. F. MARSHALL, 312 Montcalm St., San Francisco, Cal.

General Weakness of System.

"DEAR MRS. PINKHAM:—I write to thank you for the good Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound and Blood Purifier have done me. I felt tired and all worn out, suffered with severe pains in my back and limbs. Since taking your remedies that tired feeling is gone, and I am very much better, and able to work. I would advise all suffering women to write to you, for I feel sure they will find help. I wish you much success."—MRS. MARY H. LOVE, Hillsboro, Va.

Mrs. Pinkham's advice is given free to all suffering women. Her address is Lynn, Mass.

Throbbing Pain in the Back.

"DEAR MRS. PINKHAM:—About two years ago I was taken suddenly with a terrible bearing down feeling, low down across me, and such a throbbing pain in my back, that at times it would seem that I could endure it no longer. I had heard Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound spoken of very highly, and I commenced taking it at once. After a short time, I was feeling very much better, but continued its use until I had taken six bottles, and was completely cured."—MRS. S. E. WADE, Fremont, Mich.

These grateful letters from women prove conclusively that woman's safe refuge when sick is

Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound

If you are a sick woman, fill out the following blank, and send it to Mrs. Pinkham:

A woman can talk freely to a woman when it is revolting to relate her private troubles to a man. Especially can she do so to a woman whose knowledge and experience in treating woman's ills is so great. **The one thing that qualifies a person to give advice on any subject is experience**—experience creates knowledge. No other person has so wide an experience with female ills nor such a record of success as she has had.

Full name
Street No.
Town State
County
Age Married, single
Have you any female weakness?
What is its nature?
Weakness of how long standing?
Are you confined to bed?
How long have you suffered?
Have you children?
Do you have painful periods?
Have you leucorrhœa (whites)?
Ever pregnant? If so had you easy labor?
Have you profuse menstruation?
Scanty menstruation?
Suppressed menstruation?
Have you displacement?
Anteversion? Prolapsus?
Retroversion?
Are you afflicted with sterility or barrenness?
Dizzy, faint, or blind spells?
Suffer from headache?
Are your bowels constipated?
Are your bowels loose?
Are you subject to palpitation?
Are you subject to pain in heart?
Have you good appetite?
Does food seem to digest well?
Do dots dart before your eyes?
Do your feet and limbs swell?
Troubled with cold feet and hands?
Are you despondent?
Does back of your neck ache?
Do you have sore places in your spinal column?
If so, where?
Have you sore spot across back between hips?
Do your lower limbs ache?
Backache between the hips?
Have you pain across abdomen, with soreness or pressure?
Does abdomen bloat?
Have you piles?
Is urine high color?
Sediment in urine on standing?
Back weak? Where?
Ever had surgical operations?
For what?

Without money or price any woman can have a private letter giving complete details as to her health, if she will carefully answer the above questions and send them with a personal letter to Mrs. Pinkham.

Address "Mrs. Pinkham," Lynn, Mass. 3

You Need One

every day, hard rubber, screw section FOUNTAIN PEN at factory price, 38 cts. Order now by mail.
C. R. CARSON & CO., DETROIT, MICH.

HELP WANTED MALE

ONE OF THE LARGEST AGENCY CONCERNS IN THE COUNTRY offering a PAYING and PERMANENT opportunity to active men desires to place additional men in every state of the Union. Send 2-cent stamp for book containing full particulars. State your name, address, age and present occupation.
Postoffice Box 802, Chicago, Ill.

PLANTING THE OCEAN.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



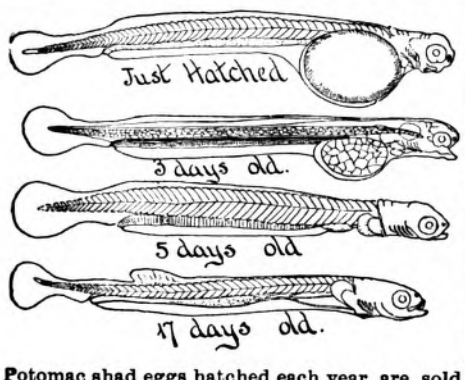
THE notion of planting and raising crops of fishes, just as if they were an agricultural product, seems extremely odd, and yet that is exactly what is done nowadays with shad. So completely is the output of shad under human control that, if it were so desired, the tidal rivers of this country could be literally crowded with them.

For a long time the winter habits of the shad were regarded as a perplexing puzzle. Of course, they are ocean fishes, entering the streams every year only for the purpose of reproducing their species. The question was, what did they do with themselves while in the sea? It was imagined that they betook themselves to southern waters during the cold season, and that at the approach of spring they began a migration northward, some of them entering the Potomac to spawn, others keeping on up the coast to the Delaware and to the Connecticut, and others yet continuing their passage to the rivers of Maine. This notion, however, has been proved erroneous.

It is now known that shad never go very far from the mouth of the rivers in which they were hatched. They spend the winters probably in the deeper waters near to and tempered by the Gulf Stream, which flows from the tropics northward. Annually, at spawning time, they return to their native streams. Mrs. R. O. E. Shad, for example, was born in the Potomac, not far from Washington. In order to reproduce her species, she is obliged to go up the river each spring and lay her eggs in a spot where they can be conveniently fertilized and hatched. Having performed this maternal function, she returns to the sea, unless she is so unfortunate as to be caught and eaten. It is not likely that she ever enters any stream other than the Potomac.

The shad browse on the ocean bottom, where there is unlimited provender, and, inasmuch as the sea will support any number of them, there is practically no limit to the multiplication of the species by artificial propagation. It is simply a question of gathering the eggs, which are readily obtainable in countless millions, hatching them in glass jars, and dumping the little fishes into the rivers, after retaining them for a short time in enclosed ponds, so that they may be big enough to take care of themselves when liberated. Swimming up the streams each spring, they fetch the crops of the ocean bottom, otherwise inaccessible to man, and deliver them in the shape of toothsome meat and roe.

The principal stations for collecting and hatching shad eggs are on the Potomac, the Susquehanna, and the Delaware. Agents of the United States Fish Commission go out in the fishermen's boats, and, as the nets are drawn, they take the female fishes and express the roes from them by passing the hand deftly over the body of each specimen, so that the eggs are poured into glass vessels, where they are immediately fertilized with milt similarly obtained from the male fishes. To save expert labor, efforts have been made to teach the fishermen how to procure and fertilize the eggs, and with such success that now more than half of the



Potomac shad eggs hatched each year are sold ready fertilized to the Commission by fishermen.

The Commission pays $20 per million for such eggs—a fair price, considering that the average shad will supply 25,000 of them. On receiving a batch of eggs from a fisherman, they are placed in a receptacle through which a stream of water runs, so that all bad eggs and refuse are floated off, and the residue, if in good condition, is measured twenty-four hours later and paid for. Inasmuch as shad eggs are all just the same size, they are most readily counted by liquid measurement. In order to make sure that the eggs thus purchased are fertile, a number of them are examined under a microscope. The eggs are hatched in from four to ten days, according to the temperature of the water, and are either shipped on the Commission's cars to various points for distribution, or else are first hatched and the new born fishes consigned to the streams. Nearly all of the shad are distributed in the shape of young "fry."

The method of hatching shad eggs is wonderfully simple. They are put into glass jars, through which, by a siphon arrangement, a stream of water is kept continually running. The gentle stream keeps the eggs perpetually agitated, so that they are bathed on all sides with water and escape contact with any foulness that might injure them. They are very delicate, and are subject to fungus parasites and other troubles when not properly manipulated. Shad eggs are somewhat bigger than buckshot, white and translucent. As soon as the young "fry" emerge, they find their way out of the jar with the running water into a large tank, from which they are scooped with gauze nets as they are wanted.

A shad egg is much like a hen's egg in the notion governing its structure, but, whereas the unborn chick, growing from the germ-spot on one side of the yolk, first feeds on the white of the egg and then on the yolk, coming out only after it has consumed both, the embryo shad, when it comes into the world, has the yolk of its egg still attached to its belly, being provided in fact with a week's rations in advance, so that it may look around at convenient leisure for a living. Looking at a shad egg three days old under a microscope, one can see distinctly not only the eyes, but also the backbone, and the heart itself pulsating visibly.

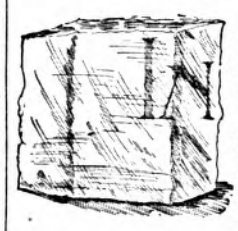
A shad egg is a spherical capsule filled with albuminous matter, the envelope being composed of very thin transparent membrane, perforated by a single minute opening. In the center of this little globe is a nucleus which represents the germ of life, only requiring impregnation by the male principle. The milt of the male shad, as seen under the microscope, is full of spindle-shaped polywogs, which are exceedingly lively in action. It is only necessary that one of them shall find its way into the egg in order to render the latter fertile. The opening in the egg is so small that only a single polywog can pass through at one time, and, as quickly as one has entered, it closes up. Presently the intruding polywog is observed to lose its spindle shape, and is transformed into a nucleus resembling that of the egg. The two nuclei approach each other and blend into a single germ-cell, and with that joining the life of the future fish may be said to begin. The new-formed cell divides itself into two, the two into four, the four into eight, and so on, the doubling process continuing until very soon the result begins to be recognizable as a young fish.

It is very interesting to watch a jar in which the shad eggs have begun to hatch. Perhaps there will be twenty thousand eggs in the receptacle, and, as all of them ripen at about the same time, the hatching goes on at a pretty rapid rate, so that every moment one sees a tiny fish emerge from its capsule. The latter, being heavier than water, sinks to the bottom of the jar, while the fish rises toward the top and is sucked out through a tube into the tank beyond. At the hatching stations the jars are run in batteries, hundreds of them together, and the multiplication of the species goes on at a rate which might well cause conservative old Dame Nature to blink with astonishment.

Since 1881, by means of artificial propagation, the shad output of the Atlantic coast rivers has been increased from eighteen million pounds to forty-five million pounds per annum.

HOW ICE IS HARVESTED.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



ALL the Northern States and Canada each winter a crop is harvested which entails more discomfort during the process of storing and brings more comfort to the consumer than any other product of the North. There is scarcely a pond or lake within reasonable distance of city or town that has not its icehouses; an account of the business carried on at these storehouses may interest the readers of COMFORT.

The accompanying illustration gives an excellent idea of the ordinary icehouse. These houses are built of wood; the walls double, and the space between filled with tannery bark or sawdust, thus keeping the warm air out when summer comes. On the left can be seen the run over which the ice passes on its way from the water to the house. Within the shed beneath this run is the engine which furnishes the power for hauling the ice.

Somewhere far out in the middle of the lake is the block of ice which is to reach your freezer some hot July morning, and of a morning in December, January or February, the icemen set about to secure it, together with thousands of similar blocks.

First of all, a machine similar to a harrow in appearance, called a marker, is drawn across the ice, following a perfectly straight line, each trip producing a new line. Across these lines others are made in a similar manner, marking off the cakes of ice into squares about forty-four inches each way.

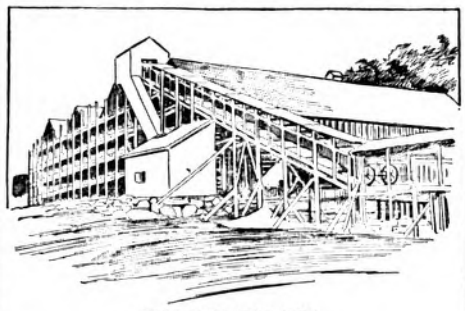
Following the marker comes a saw that looks somewhat like a plough from the distance, only that instead of the share, a saw with teeth two inches deep, making an incision of four inches. Close upon the heels of the man who drives this saw, follows another saw which cuts two inches deeper; another following this one, which completes the work of sawing out the blocks.

Immediately before the ice-run an opening is made in the ice by sawing out a dozen blocks with a large handsaw, these being sent up over the run and stored as the first of the harvest. One by one the nearest blocks are now broken off by the use of steel pikes and floated to the foot of the run, where they are slipped into the pockets of the endless chain which carries them away.

Gradually the opportunity for more men to take part in the work comes to pass; faster and faster the ice is broken away from the main field and sent in a continuous stream over the run.

Within the house all is life and action as soon as the work of sending has fairly commenced on the lake. If it is a large house, twenty or thirty men carrying long poles with a steel pike and hook at one end, await the arrival of the blocks of ice as they come shooting across the house. Kept moving, the ice is easy to handle, but allowed to pause for an instant before reaching its place, the work is greatly hindered.

If the ice is twelve inches thick, each block



STORAGE FOR ICE.

will weigh in the neighborhood of seven hundred pounds, and the work of handling them is attended with danger. Frequently accidents occur; a misstep, and a limb is broken, or a life crushed out; the men understand the danger, and are not slow to leap out of the path of the swiftly moving cake.

Layer upon layer the ice is stored away and among the blocks is the lump of winter which is destined to reach your freezer of a summer's day.

The facilities for securing the ice crop vary at the different houses. Some have very primitive arrangements, holding to machinery and methods used several decades ago. Naturally, the crop is slowly taken care of, and not infrequently warmer weather brings the work to an abrupt close. Others, more progressive, are thoroughly up-to-date, using the most improved machinery and tools. It goes without saying, that when the ice season is short, the latter are the ones who are most successful.

The men employed for the most part are from the army of the unemployed, those who find work dull when the ice season is on. The pay is small; generally a dollar and a half a day for the men employed on the lake, and two dollars for those engaged in storing the ice.

CLOTHING SALESMEN WANTED



$150.00 PER MONTH AND EXPENSES MADE BY ALL OUR ACTIVE MEN. WE PAY MANY FAR MORE. WE WANT MEN IN EVERY COUNTY IN THE UNITED STATES. If your reference is satisfactory we will start you at once. NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY. NO CAPITAL REQUIRED. We furnish a full line of samples, stationery, etc., and tailors-to-the-trade complete outfit ready for business. NO COMMISSION PLAN. You regulate your profits to suit yourself. NO HOUSE TO HOUSE CANVASS. This is not one of the many catchy advertisements for agents, but one of the very few advertisements offering a rare opportunity to secure a strictly HIGH GRADE EMPLOYMENT at BIG WAGES.

WE ARE THE WORLD'S LARGEST TAILORS. We buy our cloth direct from the LARGEST AMERICAN AND EUROPEAN MILLS. We control the entire output of several of these mills. We own our materials at the lowest possible cost, and operate the most extensive and economic tailoring plant in existence, and cut to measure and make to order Suits and Overcoats from $5.00 to $15.00 (mostly $5.00 to $10.00). Pants from $1.50 to $5.00. Fancy Vests from $2.00 up. The days of ready-made clothing are numbered. AT THESE PRICES everyone will prefer to have his garments cut to his measure and made to his order. NO DIFFICULTY IN GETTING ORDERS.

OUR PLAN. If your references are satisfactory we start you out at once. We furnish you FREE a complete AGENT'S SAMPLE BOOK AND OUTFIT. Our large, handsome, leather bound Sample Book contains our entire line of Suitings, Overcoatings, Trouserings and Vestings; full instructions for taking measurements which you can learn in 5 minutes from the large photographic illustrations in the book), colored lithographed fashion plates, full description of the material underneath each sample, and prices left blank for you to fill in, fixing your profit to suit yourself. This Sample Book is put up in a Fine Canvas Carrying Case, which also contains Tape Measure, Order Blanks, Business Cards, Stationery, Advertising Matter and Agents' Guide and Instruction Book, with Net Confidential Price List, also complete "Salesman's Talk." Our instructions are so plain, our suggestions to the salesman so thorough, that anyone can immediately make a success of the work. YOU REQUIRE NOTHING. Just take the orders and send them to us; we make the garments promptly and send them by express, C. O. D. subject to examination, and if not perfectly satisfactory they can be returned to us at our expense. Neither the agent nor his customer assume the slightest risk. WE TAKE ALL THE CHANCES OF THE TRANSACTION. We either ship direct to your customers, collecting your full selling price and send you weekly check for all your profit; or, if you prefer, we ship direct to you at your net confidential price, allowing you to make your own collections.

YOU CAN ADD A LIBERAL PROFIT TO YOUR CONFIDENTIAL PRICE.

NEARLY ALL OUR MEN MAKE $40.00 EVERY WEEK IN THE YEAR.

THE OUTFIT IS ABSOLUTELY FREE. We make no charge for our complete Agent's Sample Book and Outfit, but in order to protect ourselves against many who might impose on us by sending for the outfit (which costs us between $5.00 and $6.00), with no intention of working, but merely out of idle curiosity, we require each applicant to cut this ad out and mail to us, giving the names of at least two parties as reference, and further agree to pay a temporary deposit of One Dollar and express charges for the outfit when received, if found exactly as represented and really a big money maker. While this nominal deposit of $1.00 for the outfit is not one-fifth of its cost it insures the good faith of applicants, and we promptly refund your $1.00 as soon as your sales amount to $25.00, which amount you can take the first day out.

IF YOU WISH TO MAKE $5.00 TO $20.00 EVERY DAY cut this notice out and mail to us at once, giving us the names of two or more men as reference. Address,

REFERENCES: Corn Exchange National Bank, Any Express or Railroad Co., Any business man or resident of Chicago.

AMERICAN WOOLEN MILLS CO.
West Side Enterprise Bldg., CHICAGO, ILL.
(This Company is thoroughly reliable.—Editor.)

W21

DO YOU PLAY THE VIOLIN?

If so try our **new importation** of Violin Strings, from one of the best Makers in Europe. Full set of four strings, A. E. G. D. or 4 of any letter for only 10 cents, Stamps or Silver.

GOLDEN MOMENTS, Augusta, Maine.

100% Profit. Selling the most up to date and fastest selling bicycle article of the season. Retails for 15 cents. Send 20 cents to prepay charges and we will send full size sample and agents' terms. Griswold & Knapp, 504 Westminster St., Providence, R.I.

$8. SILK SKIRT BEST TAFFETA. Any Color FREE.
Agents Wanted. Send 4c. in stamps for Silks and information. Box O, HAZEL MFG. CO., Watertown, N.Y.



Spanish Mauser Rifles and Carbines in complete first-class serviceable order, captured in late war. 10,000 sold to us by U. S. Government, with five million ball cartridges in clips. Before exporting, we offer limited number at $10.00 each, packed for shipment. Cartridges, $3.00 per one hundred. F. Bannerman, 679 Broadway, New York, Dealer in Military Goods and War Relics.



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$2.47



AMERICAN WATCH
Cut this out and send address and we will send you C. O. D. for examination, EXPRESS ALL PAID one beautiful 14k gold plated watch, stem wind and set. A guaranteed timekeeper. Boys' or Gent's size. Equal in appearance to a $35 gold filled watch; warranted for 20 years. If satisfied pay agent $2.47 Ladies' or Misses' size Watch, EXPRESS PAID, $2.95. W. HILL MDSE. CO. C 92 State St., CHICAGO.

THE "CLEAN CUT" CAKE TIN



prevents cakes from sticking and produces a perfect cake. Is made of best quality tin with a flat, thin knife, securely riveted in center and at rim. Simple and durable. Agents send 6 cts. postage for free sample. We are the largest manufacturers of **Pure Aluminum, Scotch Granite and Tin Ware** in the world. Address Dept. X
HOUSEHOLD NOVELTY WORKS, 25 Randolph St., Chicago, Ill., or New York, N. Y.; Buffalo, N. Y.; St. Louis, Mo.; Kansas City, Mo.; Denver, Col.; Seattle, Wash.
This Co. is worth a Million Dollars and is reliable.—Ed.

$83.33 MONTHLY SALARY PAYABLE WEEKLY with EXPENSES
Men or Women to represent us in their own state. Your duties to take charge of solicitors and attend to collections. **No investment required.** Send stamp for application blank.
CO-OPERATIVE CO., 357 Star Bldg., Chicago, Ill.



WE SELL BUGGIES, SURREYS, CARRIAGES, LIGHT and HEAVY WAGONS at lower prices than any other house in America, quality considered; issue a two-year binding guarantee, and we ship to anyone to examine before paying. Write for free Buggy Catalogue.
SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO., (Inc.) Chicago, Ill.

ADDRESS The National Supply Co., Detroit, Mich., for their liberal offer to Boys and Girls.

FREE CURE for ASTHMA
Trial Package of three special medicines Free. DR. W. K. WALRATH, Box 505 ADAMS, N.Y.

WE PAY CASH.

$10.00 to **$25.00** per week easily earned. Agents wanted everywhere. Girls and Boys you can earn good pay after school hours. **CASH** is better than imitation jewelry and fake prizes. It will buy you anything you want. You take **NO RISK** whatever, **NO MONEY REQUIRED.** We furnish everything. All we ask is good references as to character. Write for full particulars. THE ALPINE MFG. CO., 215 WEST 20TH ST., NEW YORK CITY.

A GRAND
Household Outfit FREE.



Any one can learn to repair their tinware in fifteen minutes with our new and improved **Handy Soldering Set.** This new Set has full directions how to work it to the best advantage and you can save enough in one day by using this Set to keep one in **Boots and Shoes** for six months. Everything necessary to repair all kinds of **tinware** or used to put up canned fruits etc., comes with this set and we will send a Set to you **free,** all charges paid, if you enclose 25c. for one yearly subscription. Address **SUNSHINE, Augusta, Maine.**

Sent Free to Everybody!

The COMFORT HAMMOCK.

As a Reward for a little friendly service.

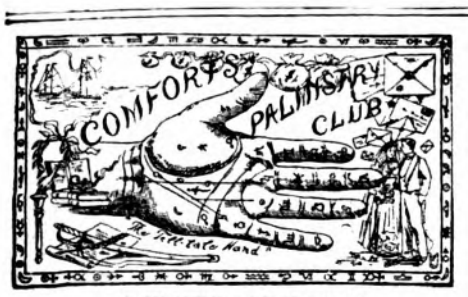
BOYS AND GIRLS:
Here's a happy hint for Summer,
And verily it is a "hummer."



We have 17,300 strong, perfect, Oriental, **Hammocks,** which for the next sixty days we shall place on the **Free List,** upon the conditions specified below. This will enable **every** one who is willing to render us a little service, to secure one **absolutely free.** These Hammocks are over 5 feet long, every one is tested to carry 300 lb. dead weight, is supplied with strong, white metal rings at the ends.

No home, picnic, camping, or outing party is complete without one. To recline in one of these health-giving articles in some cool nook after the day's work is done, or on a Sunday afternoon, is to repose in the lap of luxury.

Now to every one who will get up a club of **4** subscribers for this paper at the special trial price, 25 cents per year each in advance, we will send one of these Hammocks FREE, we paying all express and mailing charges. By showing a copy of this great paper to your neighbors, friends and acquaintances, you can easily get up a club in one evening; for with its many improvemens and new original copyrighted departments, now needs only to be seen to be appreciated. To those who do not care to go to the trouble of getting a club we will send our paper for one year, together with one of these Hammocks (all express and mailing charges paid by us) upon receipt of **97 cts.** Address, COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.



CONDUCTED BY DIGITUS.

CONDITIONS.

To have one's hands read in this department, by Digitus, one of the finest living palmists, it is necessary to observe the following conditions:

Impressions of both hands must be sent, fully postpaid and having the name, address and nom de plume of the sender enclosed in the package also.

The package must in every instance be accompanied by the names and addresses of eight new subscribers at twenty-five cents each, the whole amount, $2.00 being remitted, with the package, addressed to COMFORT PALMISTRY CLUB, Augusta, Maine.

No notice will be taken of impressions and requests for readings unless the sender has fully complied with the above conditions.

To take impressions, first hold two large pieces of blank paper over a candle or similar flame, until they are heavily coated with the smoke. Then lay these pieces down, smoke side uppermost on a pad of cotton. Now place the two hands, palms downward, one on each sheet of paper, pressing firmly and steadily down, but taking care not to move the hand. Keep them so for one minute and lift carefully, so as not to disturb the impression. Have ready some fixatif, which can be bought at a drug store or an art store or made with gum arabic and water in an atomizer. Spray this over the impressions before they are moved and allow them to dry. Then they are ready to send.

Smoked paper impressions are the best. But if it is desired to send a plaster cast, take plaster of Paris and dissolve in water to the consistency of thick cream. Pour this into a large shallow dish and when it is hardening place the hand, well-greased, palm downward, in the plaster, pressing downward. Several minutes will be required to get this impression and great care must be taken in removing the hand, not to break the plaster. Casts are exceedingly difficult to send without breaking and should be very carefully packed in a box with the name of the sender written on it. Putty is sometimes successfully used in place of plaster. A good photograph if sufficiently well taken to bring out all the lines, can also be read, although in all cases the smoked paper is the best, if properly treated with fixatif.

Bear in Mind that all the above conditions must be observed.

Also, that letters not complying with them will go into the waste-basket. Readings cannot appear for several months after impressions are sent.

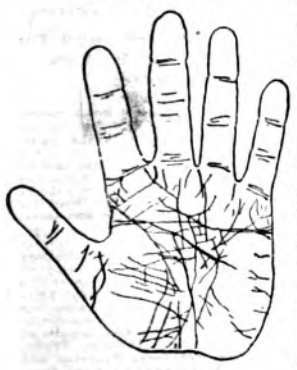
BEFORE taking up the reading of the hand, I will go on with the instructions which we started last month with regard to the lines of the hand. I have so many questions that this seems to be an answer to many general ones with regard to marks in the triangle. The triangle should be formed in the palm, or more properly called the plain of Mars, by junction of the head, life and health lines. If the health line is absent from the hand, a line must be drawn from base of life line to mount of Mercury. This angle is divided into three angles; upper at intersection of head and life line; inner angle, at line of head and health; lower angle at junction of health and life. Well formed and clear with pointed upper angle, is good luck and long life; badly formed shows a cowardly nature; *sometimes* when imperfect early in life, it will *improve* at maturity, showing that health is improved; a cross in triangle is an evil disposition; a crescent, a captious, fretful nature; a crescent joined to line of head, violent death caused by imprudence; crescent joined to line of health gives power; a star in triangle gives riches obtained at expense of health; the upper angle clear and sharp denotes refinement; blunt, a dull intellect; extremely pointed, envy, great finesse. Inner angle well defined, long life and intelligence; obtuse or blunt, uncouth; the lower angle not quite closed, good health; a coarse line with many rays, rude and lazy.

The quadrangle, the square defined between head and line of heart, under first and fourth fingers, should be of good width; not narrowing in the middle, but wide through its extent; it signifies folly; much filled with little lines, a weak nature; here we look for the croix mistique. A well-colored, well-formed star indicates truth and honor easily led by fair means, and such subjects make fortunes by their own merit; a line from this to mount of Mercury betokens patronage from those in power.

Close attention must be paid to signs in the palm. These signs are: A star is an event beyond our control, unavoidable and generally a danger, but whether good or bad depends on the line. When on line of fate it always means something important. We have already noted the signs of a star on the mounts: on the mount of Jupiter with a cross it is a marriage of high position; on the mount of Saturn, a great fatality; on the mount of Apollo, wealth with happiness; on mount of Mercury, theft and dishonesty in all things; on mount of Mars, violence and homicide; on mount of Moon, hypocrisy; at the base of the mount of Venus, misfortune by opposite sex; on the phalange of any finger, especially Saturn, is good luck; on third phalange of finger of Saturn, danger of assassination.

The square denotes power and protection; a square found enclosing a star is always a protection from the evil threatened; a square with red spot at each corner is protection from fire. It has but one evil signification when on mount of Venus close to life line; that is a warning of imprisonment of some sort.

A spot on a line denotes a malady or wound. The circle is rarely seen and has but one signification; when on mount of Apollo it means success; on any line it denotes a weakness of the organs.



"PHILIPPA."

The triangle denotes aptitude for science; on Jupiter diplomatic ability; on Saturn, occult sciences; on Apollo, science in art; on Mercury, a good politician; on Mars, science in warfare, a good general; and on mount of Venus greatly interested in love.

The cross indicates change of position in life and has already been noted in the lessons on the mounts and lines; the croix mistique is found only in the quadrangle. Its proper place is under the finger of Saturn; it emphasizes the qualities of that finger and mount; if joined to the line of fate, it foretells honors and good fortune in religious efforts and high attainments.

The grille indicates obstacles through the faults of a line or mount on which it is placed.

A correspondent from North Carolina asks if she may send the hands of several children to be read. I do not care to read the hands of children under fifteen, as in the case of growing children the lines are constantly changing and except with the principal lines, none of them are fixed. Cheiro has always said that he would read the hand of a new born baby, but not again until the child was at least twelve years old. You may send the hands of your children of fifteen or over.

"W. H. S., Jr." sends two small photographs of hands which were read in the October, 1899 number. Will he please explain what he wants done with these?

"Miss C. E. J." writes from one of the southern states asking about the reading of her hands. They were read in the January number under the initials of M. E. J. which she will please look up.

"Philippa" sends a very well-taken hand on which the lines stand out with beautiful clearness. Her life line is not as good as I could wish in the right hand, although it is much better in the left. It shows that she is very ambitious and high minded and that she will be very successful in all that she undertakes. She will be protected from some trouble or evil when she is about thirty, a square appearing both on the life and the fate line at that age. She has some special gifts as an artist or musician and will have good luck if she takes up platform work of any kind. She will have a fine career, having a life line that sweeps all before it, which is accomplished by a splendid line of Apollo. She will meet with some opposition and some trouble between the ages of twenty and thirty-five, but her splendid courage and perseverance will carry her victorious through everything and she will live to be known and honored far and wide for her many good qualities and her exceptional talents. She will marry, not far from twenty-five or thirty, and that marriage will last some fifteen years or perhaps a little more, when it will be broken off suddenly, causing her considerable grief at the time. She will rise superior to it, however, and after that will win fame and riches. She will have more or less trouble from affairs of the heart but these will not in any way impede her real success in life. A decided change will come into her life about the age of forty to forty-five, which will be for the better. I cannot say just what it will be, but there is something quite marked in store at that age. Hers is a very positive character and she is of a decided makeup. She knows her own mind and will not be afraid to speak it. She is perhaps lacking a little in tact, but her good qualities are such that she will make friends in spite of this lack. The lines on the ends of her fingers are decidedly peculiar and worthy the study of Mark Twain, Puddin' Head Wilson. On the whole hers is a very fortunate hand, signifying honor, a fine reputation, wealth, marriage and many journeys, which will be successful in their nature.

The hands sent by "Safety" are so badly blurred that it is impossible to read them. Will she send another set and endeavor to get them in better shape for reading? In the mean time I will hold these until I hear from her.

Digitus

Do You Want a Buggy?

If you have any use for a fine open or top buggy, surrey, phaeton or spring wagon at the lowest price ever heard of, a price that will surprise you, privilege of free trial and payable after received, cut this notice out and mail to SEARS, ROEBUCK & Co., Chicago, Ill., and they will mail you their very latest and extremely interesting vehicle offer and special catalogue.

MUSIC GIVEN AWAY.

One hundred and twenty-five Favorite Song Jewels. A large book of music containing words and score of the latest popular songs sung in the theaters and churches everywhere. Comic, Sentimental, Pathetic and Religious. This great collection would cost from $15 to $20 in the usual sheet music form. The best collection for home and concert use ever published. We will give the book as a FREE present to any person sending us six cents in stamps for a trial three months' subscription to our sparkling, monthly paper which we are introducing into 100,000 new homes this season.

SUNSHINE, Augusta, Maine.

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DISEASE—A CRIME.

Prof. S. A. Weltmer, the Great Magnetic Healer, Demonstrates That All Disease Can Be Cured Without the Aid of Medicines or the Surgeon's Knife.

"WELTMER, THE MAN of the HOUR"

Prof. S. A. Weltmer, the eminent scientist of Nevada, Mo., who originated that Method of Magnetic Healing known as Weltmerism, and which is indorsed by both the press and the pulpit, has demonstrated that disease is a crime. In a recent interview he stated "A crime is a breach, whether a breach of moral principles, of law or of nature, it is still a crime. Now, disease is a breach of nature, brought on by either an abuse of nature or by not following nature's edict, and whether this breach be in commission or in omission, nature, like the State, demands a penalty. Now I wish to demonstrate that at the present time the existing of disease is a double-headed crime, first by its appearance, second by its continuation, for there is no disease, no matter how hopeless it may seem or of how long standing, that cannot be cured, therefore, to continue in disease is a crime, not only to oneself but to posterity yet to come. Now we have demonstrated by scientific researches that disease is a product produced by human hands, and is unnatural, therefore it can again be remedied by human hands. The reason that the method which I have originated has had such phenomenal success is because it acts in a perfectly natural manner, without the aid of either drugs or the surgeon's knife, by going to the very seat of the trouble, and placing the constitution in a robust condition, it cures all disease, no matter whether chronic or acute. Take for instance woman who in the majority of cases is placed upon the rack of torture, simply because those organs which make her a woman are in an unnatural condition. Through Weltmerism they are placed in that condition which nature and God meant them to be, thereby dispelling the pain and agony which so often comes with the monthly period; it also dispels all danger during that critical period known as change of life. In fact it is the only positive cure for all female troubles. Then, again, take man in that weakened condition which is called Lost Manhood, and in my experience I have had thousands of men place themselves under my treatment who have been almost drugged to death by nostrums they saw advertised, and I am proud to say that I have been able to perfect a cure in every instance." We cannot but believe with Prof. Weltmer that to allow disease to continue is a crime. Our reason for coming to this belief is that it has now been demonstrated that there is a cure for all diseases. For Weltmerism has been given more severe tests than has any curative power known to man, and the fact that it has cured more than 100,000 men and women from every disease known, is positive proof that Weltmerism will cure when all else fails. The most remarkable features about Weltmerism, is that part known as the Absent Treatment, which annihilates space and cures disease, no matter at what distance the patient may live. We take great pleasure in publishing here a few of the many thousand testimonials that are in the hands of Prof. J. H. Kelly, the eminent co-laborer of Prof. Weltmer: T. T. Rodes of Paris, Mo., the Prosecuting Attorney of Monroe County, suffered for years with Sciatic Rheumatism. Tried everything without benefit. Was instantly cured through Prof. Weltmer's Absent Treatment. Mrs. C. R. Graham of Boise City, Iowa, was afflicted for nine years with rheumatism; she could not walk without crutches or lift her hands to her head; she paid out $3000 with doctors before coming to Nevada. She now proclaims herself cured and a happy woman, through Weltmerism. Mrs. D. H. Allen of Aurora Springs, Mo., was in a hopeless condition, as she suffered from consumption in its worst form. She could not sleep without the aid of morphine. Tried everything without relief. Fully restored by Prof. Weltmer's Absent Treatment. D. E. Alford of Rubens, Jewell County, Kan., suffered for three years with Kidney and Stomach troubles; tried the best medical authorities, but was told that his case was hopeless. Took Prof. Weltmer's Absent Treatment and in three days was cured. Mrs. Jennie L. Lynch, Lakeview, Mo., was for two years afflicted with ulceration of the womb, heart and stomach troubles and general debility; was reduced to a mere skeleton. After taking gallons of obnoxious medicines without relief, she tried the Weltmer Absent Treatment. In less than thirty days she was entirely relieved and gained fifteen pounds. Weltmerism is undoubtedly the greatest discovery of the age, and the Absent Treatment of this wonderful science is indeed a revelation, for through it Prof. Weltmer can reach all classes of people, no matter at what distance they live. By writing Prof. S. A. Weltmer, Nevada, Mo., you will receive, free of charge, The Magnetic Journal, a 40-page illustrated Magazine, and a long list of the most remarkable cures ever made.



PROF. WELTMER.

TEACHES HIS METHOD TO OTHERS.



PROF. J. H. KELLY.

Prof. S. A. Weltmer the originator of this marvelous method, will teach the art to others how to cure every known disease without the aid of drugs or the surgeon's knife. Anyone who desires can learn this noble profession. Anyone who learns can practice it. He has abundantly proven this by the large number who have been instructed by him and who are in the active practice of healing by his method. He will teach you in ten days, either by mail or personal instruction, his wonderful method, through which wealth and fame can be earned. Full instructions will be sent free of charge to anyone writing to Prof. J. H. Kelly, Sec'y, Nevada, Mo.



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for selling only six of our **Electric Porous Plasters.** We want to prove there is a sure prevention and cure for **Lame Back, La Grippe, Coughs, Colds, Pneumonia, Rheumatism,** etc., etc., and will send you six of our 25c. Plasters which you are to sell and return the money ($1.50) to us and we will send you all charges paid, the **elegant Shaving Set** packed in a case eight inches long, six inches wide and five inches high. The combination consists of 1 Royal Steel Swedish Razor, single value, $3.00; 1 Genuine, Horschide, Double, Reversible, Canvass-back, Nickle-hung, Ebonized handle Razor Strop, value $1.00; 1 Real China Shaving Mug; 1 Cake Star Shaving Soap; 1 Best Bristle, large handle Lather Brush; 1 Cake Perfumed Lump Magnesia; 1 Stick rich perfumed Cosmetic, making a grand $5.00 combination. **Every man** should have an outfit in the house for emergency's use. **Every Woman** should see to it that either her **Father,** her **Husband,** her **Brother** or her **Sweetheart** has one of these outfits. They make the best presents one can give to a gentleman.

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You can then test them and see how many packages you want to start with. *No attention paid to first orders without trial 6c subscription.* Write at once and be among the first to get the free packages.

Address, COMFORT FOOD DEP'T L, Augusta, Maine.

Impressions of a Sailor of the Samoan Isles in 1839.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



THE acquisition of Tutuilla by the United States Government resulting from the partition of the Samoan Isles lends interest to the first official visit paid these islands in 1839 and the impressions then made by this now acquired American territory.

The following account is from the journal of a marine on board the flag-ship Vincennes of Wilkes' Exploring Expedition, the first one sent out by this Government, and which visited these islands in 1839 and added to our knowledge of these heretofore seldom visited waters. Due credit has never been given Commodore Charles Wilkes, under whose able leadership this pioneer voyage was so successfully made, bringing to our traders and whalers reliable information upon which to base their voyages; and to the scientific world of the day knowledge of the wonders below the Antarctic circle as well as of the tropical islands towards which the eyes of the world are now turned.

"1839. October 12th. Commences clear and pleasant with light breezes. At 10 o'clock A. M. came up with the Island of Tutuilla, one of the Navigator Islands, and at 4 o'clock came to anchor in Pango Pango Bay, south side of Tutuilla.

October 13th. Commences clear and pleasant with a fine wind. Not a canoe is seen to ruffle the surface of this beautiful bay. It is the Sabbath here and everything is hushed and still. Weather fine and exhilarating. 10 o'clock divine service was performed by our Chaplain. The natives of the Navigators resemble those of the Society in their complexion and features, but there is material difference between their language. Their huts are built in the same shape and constructed of the same material. I saw many females engaged in the domestic occupations, such as making mats, tapa and fishing nets, etc. In some parts of the island polygamy is still practiced, but at this village it is openly discountenanced by all the chiefs and people. No man is allowed to have more than one wife. The missionaries, of course, have been the cause of abolishing this practice. The whole mass of the native population in this part of the island seem to be fast advancing to a state of civilization. Their minds seem high, susceptible of cultivation and a thirst for knowledge seems universal among them, especially at this village. The missionaries have made a great change in the morals of these people in a very short time. Mr. Murray is the missionary at this station; polished gentleman he is too. He is devoted to the missionary cause and indefatigable in his labors to ameliorate the condition of these poor savages. He has two flourishing schools here, in each about three hundred scholars. He is assisted by native teachers in each school whom he has taught since he came among them. His wife, Mrs. Murray, seems equally interested in the missionary cause and is at the head of a female seminary where she teaches the native women the mode of manufacturing their clothes and making straw bonnets, in which some of them have become quite proficient. I saw many of the natives dressed very neat in their own manufacture. They present quite a pleasing contrast to their neighbors, the "Devil Tribe," who reside only a short distance from them. This tribe has refused to receive instruction from the missionary and still remain in their primitive state and this only a few miles off; they never visit their Christian neighbors.

On the following Sunday, after our arrival, Mr. Murray preached on board this ship. He was accompanied by his wife and missionaries from other stations on the island.

October 25th. At 9 o'clock got underway and stood out to sea with a fine wind. At 11 o'clock the same day, land was reported from the masthead. This was a small, unimportant island which we passed without examining it.

October 27th. Commences clear and pleasant. 10 o'clock, cloudy with frequent showers of rain. 11 o'clock, arrived off the northern end of the island and stood along the coast only a few miles from the land. At noon arrived off the harbor of Apia. Found our consort, the "Peacock" at anchor here and the missionary brig Campden. This is by far the most fertile and handsomest island in the group. The land rises gradually from the seashore until it breaks into mountains and ridges which are covered with green verdure almost to their summit. The shore abounds in table lands beautifully sprinkled and variegated with clumps, groves and single trees of the breadfruit, pandanus and cocoanut trees forming thickly and deeply shaded bowers overhanging the habitations of the natives. Several villages are scattered along the coast with here and there the residence of a missionary and missionary chapel.

At 4 o'clock Capt. Wilkes and Purser Waldron left the ship for the Peacock, she having sailed from Pango Pango bay two days previous to us.

October 28th. Commences with light winds and pleasant weather. Standing on and off the harbor of Apia, waiting orders from Capt. Wilkes, who is still absent from the ship. At 4 o'clock he returned and immediately after squared away and ran into harbor and came to anchor in 12 fathoms water.

November 3rd. Commences with pleasant breezes and fine weather. To-day Mr. Williams, missionary, preached a very eloquent and pointed sermon from the 19th chapter, 2nd verse of Proverbs. "Also, that the soul be without knowledge it is not good, and he that hasteneth with his feet sinneth." Mr. Williams is, so far as I am able to judge, a good preacher; he is at least a good orator. Mr. Williams was accompanied by his lady and several missionaries. After having taken of refreshments, which were prepared for them in the cabin, they visited the different parts of the ship in company with Capt. Wilkes, and returned on shore soon after.

On the following day we were visited by the Chief of the Christian party, accompanied by his wife and two fine, interesting girls, and a number of inferior chiefs and attendants. The principal chief is a man of middle stature, about thirty years of age and of copper color. He was attired in a round jacket made of blue cloth, pantaloons of the same, a white vest, white shirt and fur hat, with shoes, constituted his whole dress. His wife was dressed in a calico frock, straw bonnet, but wore no shoes. She was very large, prominent abdomen and rather obese. Her husband looked like a boy by her side. The two daughters were more gayly attired. They wore gingham frocks with waist ribbons and straw bonnets. The inferior chief and attendant wore no clothing, except a tapa around the loins. They behaved themselves much better than might have been expected of people so lately emerged from pagan darkness. After visiting the different parts of the ship they were entertained in the board room where a collation had been prepared for them. They ate heartily but used the wine sparingly.

On the following day the High Chief, attended by a number of inferior chiefs, dined in the cabin. They were attended by Mr. John Williams, Jr., as interpreter. Several "big guns" were fired, which somewhat alarmed him at the first fire. He made his way upon deck but was soon reconciled by Mr. Williams, who assured him that no harm would befall him. After, Capt. Wilkes and Capt. Hudson with several of the officers accompanied the King and chiefs on shore to the mission house, where from one to two thousand natives had assembled to witness the exercise of small arms of a party of our mariners and seamen, who had been sent on shore for that purpose, to the number of about one hundred and fifty men. I was astonished to see such an assemblage of natives, mostly dressed in the native costume, with no clothing but a piece of tapa around their loins. At first they crowded upon us very much, but at a signal from the old chief they retreated and took up their positions at a sufficient distance to allow us room for exercising, marching, firing, etc. Several rounds of blank cartridges were fired in regular order, which much pleased the natives.

On the same evening Mr. John Williams, Jr., was appointed American Consul or agent for the Samoa group and the American flag hoisted over his house.

This extensive and populous group is situated in the south Pacific Ocean, and extends four degrees east and west.

It was discovered on the 4th of May, 1678, by the French circumnavigator, Bouganville, who gave it the name it now bears, most probably on account of the superior construction of their canoes and their surprising dexterity in the water. The group is called by the natives Samoa, and consists of eight islands, Manua, Orogangi, Ofu, Tutuilla, Upolu, Manona, Aborima and Savaii. In addition to these there are several small islands off the coast of Tutuilla and Upolu. In the year 1788 this group was visited by the unfortunate La Parouse, whose colleague, M. de Langle, and a number of his men lost their lives by being barbarously murdered by the natives. This tragical act conveyed such an impression of their treachery and ferocity as deterred subsequent voyagers from returning among them and for many years appear not to have been visited by any vessel from the civilized world, until a very late period when a missionary station was established here and the Rev. Mr. Williams was among the number who first filled this station. Tutuilla or Tootooilla, the first of the Navigator Islands which was visited, is about fifteen miles from Orogangi west in 171 degrees west longitude and 14 degrees and 20 minutes south latitude. This is a fine, romantic island of from eighty to one hundred miles in circumference. It was here that the unfortunate M. de Langle lost his life, and on this account the bay in which he was murdered received the name of Massacre Bay. In passing down the coast you pass some fine bays, the most conspicuous is Pango Pango, in which our squadron rendezvoused while engaged in surveying this island. Into this bay vessels of almost any moderate size may run in and anchor there in perfect safety, except during a strong south gale.

Upolo, the next island in circumference is about one hundred to one hundred and twenty miles. The mountains on this island are very high and in clear weather may be seen fifty or sixty miles. These are richly covered with verdure to their summit, and in the north-east parts of the island they present a variety in their form and character, which in some situations renders their appearance romantic and sublime, in others soft, luxuriant and beautiful. It has been stated that there were no harbors in this group but at this island alone we found three and surveyed them. The one at Apia, in which we anchored, is commodious, spacious and safe, and as it faces to the north it admits, with the prevailing trade winds, of easy ingress and egress. The bottom is sandy and at twenty-five yards from the beach there is about five fathoms of water. A river runs into the bay so that any quantity of fresh water may be obtained of an excellent quality."

These were a sailor's impressions sixty years ago. Not a scientific but a wholesome, hearty American view of territory then so far away and really little known.

These were days of sails, not steam, and who could have believed at that day that any member of that expedition would survive to see this beautiful bay of Pango Pango an American harbor, a half-way station as it were, to our greater possessions in this vast Pacific.

And yet there are at least two men perhaps living, who were of this gallant six hundred who comprised the "Wilkes' Exploring Expedition," one, Thomas Sinclair of Oxford, Maryland, the owner of this journal from which I have drawn, and the other a New Englander who came to Maryland to talk over this momentous voyage with Mr. Sinclair in the summer of 1898.

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CALENDAR ECCENTRICITIES.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



THE fact that our earth revolves around the sun once in 365 days and a fraction has given our makers of calendars no end of trouble. It is the little fraction that makes all the bother. If this troublesome part of a day were exactly one-quarter, the matter could have been easily adjusted, as in the Julian calendar, by adding one day every four years. This extra day, by the way, was greatly feared by the Romans, for it was supposed to be sacred to the God of death, and in order to deceive this divinity they slipped it in between two other days, calling it "bisextillus." Hence the leap year came to be called a "bisextille". The practice of adding one day every four years, however, made the year too long by 3 days in 400 years.

This was remedied to some extent in the Gregorian calendar. According to this, every fourth year was reckoned as a bisextille year, with the exception of the years at the beginning of each century. These were made to contain 365 days with the exception of the one at the beginning of every fourth century, which was called a leap year. Even this causes the years to vary to the extent of one day in 3400 years.

Now an ingenious mathematician comes forward, with a scheme for still further correcting this error. He proposes to call all years divisible by 4 leap years, except those divisible by 128. Though this is not exact, still the years would, under this plan of reckoning, be too short by only one day in 30,000 years; near enough for all practical purposes, we will all agree.

IT is said that the tortoise is not at all pleased to get caught out in the rain; twenty-four hours before rainfall, the tortoise will seek a convenient shelter and will not stir out until all is clear again. This presentation which often exists in many beasts and birds, may be partially explained from the increased weight of the atmosphere when rain is forming.



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(Sears, Roebuck & Co. are thoroughly reliable.—Editor.)

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Our stock of Silk Ribbons, from which we put up these 35-cent packages, consists of Crown Edge, Gros Grain, Moire, Picot Edge, Satin Edge, Silk Brocade, Striped Ottoman, and various other styles of Plain and Fancy Silk Ribbons suited to the wants of our lady friends.

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CONDUCTED BY AUNT SARAH.



RAMEQUIN dishes were probably first used for serving various kinds of cheese dishes, but they are now as often used for serving meats, fish and puddings. Our initial shows a covered ramequin dish, which is very pretty in coloring; those generally used for baking are uncovered, and cost five cents, but these covered ones are used where the food has already been cooked and is simply served in these dishes, which are easy to eat from, as the handle is convenient—quite different from the shells in which so many things are served, for the latter have a disagreeable way of sliding all over the plate, and there is nothing to hold them by. This difficulty is obviated somewhat, however, by serving the shells on a napkin or doiley, on a plate.

We give a recipe for chicken, to be cooked in the individual ramequin dishes, and served in the same.

Melt two tablespoons butter, cook in it two tablespoons flour, one-fourth teaspoon salt and a little pepper; then add half a cup each of cream and chicken stock. When boiling, remove from the fire and beat in two well beaten eggs and one pint chopped chicken. Turn the mixture into buttered ramequin dishes and bake, standing in a pan of hot water, about twenty minutes. The water should be kept below the boiling point. In serving, set the dishes on doiley-covered plates. Fish of any kind may be used in place of the chicken, if desired.

A new way for serving salad is shown in our illustration called the ice-bowl. This is not simply a square of ice just as it comes from the refrigerator, but has special shape, which is arrived at by filling a mould with water and letting it freeze solid; then take a flatiron hot, and with it melt out the center of the ice so as to form a bowl of any depth desired, according to the amount of salad to be served. In this opening place lettuce leaves and then fill in with the salad, whether chicken, lobster, potato or vegetable. We give a recipe for oyster and cabbage salad, which may be new to some.

Scald a pint of oysters, and when they are plump drain and cool. Dress with mayonnaise and arrange in the ice bowl on the lettuce leaves alternately with a pint of sliced cabbage that has been chilled in ice water, dried and dressed with mayonnaise. Set the ice bowl upon a folded napkin and garnish with parsley, curled celery or lettuce.

This ice-bowl is also a delicate way for serving fruit salad, as fruit is always so much more appetizing when cold. A fruit pudding made of sliced oranges, bananas and pineapple, served with whipped cream is delicious, and of course in the berry season one of strawberries and raspberries is equally delicate.

Frozen apricots, served in the ice-bowl, make a particularly attractive dish, as the color is different from any other fruit ice. For this, take three cans of apricots, remove the skins and cut in small pieces; pass the syrup through a cheese cloth, add the pulp and three pints sugar and three quarts of water and stir until the sugar is dissolved; then freeze, as any ice cream.

Charlotte russe is a delicate and very much enjoyed sweet by most people, but the way in which it is served, usually, takes away some of the daintiness, as it smacks of the restaurant. Of course we refer to the paper cases. Now charlotte may be made at home and served in a much daintier form, as we have shown in our illustration.

Beat the yolks of four eggs until thick and light-colored; add gradually one cup powdered sugar and the stiffly beaten whites of the four eggs, one-third cup grated chocolate, half a cup of blanched and powdered almonds and three-quarters of a cup of cracker crumbs, very fine, mixed with a teaspoonful baking powder. Bake in small buttered tins for twenty-five minutes. Cut out the centre from



ICE BOWL.

each cake and fill with sweetened and flavored whipped cream; decorate the top with candied violets or cherries.

Now for a few new recipes.

MAPLE SUGAR BISCUIT.

Sift together one quart flour, one teaspoon salt, three level tablespoons baking powder, and work in two tablespoons butter; then mix to a dough with milk or milk and water. Roll out with a rolling pin and spread with maple sugar and roll up like a jelly roll. Cut from the ends in rounds and bake in a buttered pan serving hot with butter.

HICKORY NUT COOKIES.

Thoroughly beat three eggs; add one cup chopped hickory meats, a cup and a half of sugar, three-quarters cup melted butter and one teaspoon soda and three cups flour, sifted together. Roll out into a thin sheet, cut with cutter and bake in a moderate oven.

SOFT HERMITS.

Cream half a cup butter; add gradually one cup sugar, half a cup seeded and chopped raisins, two tablespoons flour sifted with half a teaspoon each of cinnamon, mace and nutmeg and one-fourth teaspoon cloves; add two eggs well beaten, half a cup of milk, flour, sifted with two teaspoons baking-powder, to make a soft dough. Roll out, cut in rounds and bake in a hot oven.

CANDIED VIOLETS.

Cook a pound and a quarter of sugar to the soft-ball stage, remove from the fire and add a pound of violets, which have previously been dipped into cold water and dried. Return the sugar to the fire and let it boil up once, pressing the flowers down into the syrup; turn onto a cold dish. The next day drain on a sieve; to the syrup add half a cup of sugar and cook again to the soft ball stage; put in the flowers and set aside for twelve hours; drain again, heat to the boiling point and add the violets. Remove from fire and stir lightly until the syrup begins to grain; then pour on sheets of paper; shake the flowers to separate them, or pull them apart with the fingers.

PEANUT COOKIES.

Cream one-fourth cup butter; add gradually half a cup of sugar and three-quarters of a cup of peanuts pounded fine, one egg beaten, one-fourth teaspoon salt, two tablespoons milk, and one cup flour into which two teaspoons baking powder have been sifted. Drop the mixture onto buttered pans, a teaspoonful in each place. Garnish the top of each with a piece of the nut.

CREAM CHEESE BALLS.

To one cup cream cheese add one tablespoon flour, one-fourth teaspoon each of salt and paprica; then add the whites of two eggs beaten until stiff. Make into small balls, roll in fine cracker crumbs, fry in deep fat and drain on soft paper.

PEANUT SOUP.

Cook two cups shelled peanuts with a slice of onion and stalk of celery until tender; put



CHARLOTTE RUSSE.

through a sieve, reheat with one pint white stock and stir into a white sauce made of one-fourth cup each of butter and flour and a pint of milk. Season with salt and pepper.

SCOTCH WAFERS.

Mix one-fourth cup rolled oats, one-fourth cup oatmeal, half a cup flour, one tablespoon sugar, one-fourth teaspoon salt, and with the tips of the fingers work in two tablespoons butter; add hot water to make a stiff dough, knead slightly and roll into a thin sheet; cut with small cutter and bake on buttered sheets in a moderate oven.

All our recipes call for *level* measurements.

THE early settlers in California were familiar with the existence of oil, which was seen at various points along the coast; asphaltum, also, oozed up from beds at the bottom of the sea and formed an important factor in household economy. Oil wells were sunk at Santa Paula some years ago, and later an oil-producing belt was discovered below Santa Barbara, when it was found that the stratum stretched far out into the sea; then the drill scaffolding was set in the water, work being started at extremely low tide, and finally the tall scaffolding appeared 30 feet from the shore, rising out of the water; the men work on platforms which are built at different heights, which they successively ascend as the tide rises. The drills are worked in the water from the engine on the beach, the fuel being the oil pumped up. Farther out in the water, in this same locality, oil rises to the surface in many places, and a spring of fresh water also rushes up with such velocity that it can be taken up and used.

THE MARLBOROUGH CAMEOS.

The famous Marlborough cameos have arrived at the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, Mass., and the collection is very rare and beautiful. The choicest one was the work of an engraver before the time of Alexander the Great, and for this one gem the price of $10,000 was paid. It is the finest cameo in the world, measuring six inches by five and a half. It represents the hymeneal procession of Cupid and Psyche. The relief is in flesh color on a background of black, and the designer was Tyonpihr.

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THE WAR IN SOUTH AFRICA.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



COL. BADEN-POWELL.

THESE are the initials, or rather nickname, by which Colonel Baden-Powell, the commander at Mafeking is known throughout the British army, and B-P from a garrison name has become known as the diminutive of a peerless fighter, whose resources seem to us almost wonderful. Mafeking was invested by a Boer army almost as soon as the war was suddenly declared and has since been in a state of siege.

The city lies north of Kimberley in British Natal and was garrisoned by a few hundred British soldiers under Colonel Baden-Powell when surrounded. Notwithstanding their desperate situation they have fought a brilliant defense against overwhelming odds. Several columns which have been sent to the aid of the beleaguered city have been repulsed or blocked and its relief is a question of great military sagacity. The townspeople and garrison are living almost entirely in bomb-proofs and trenches for the streets are raked with a pitiless fire from cannon and rifles. Still the death rate is small and, though food is scarce, the spirits of the community are good. Should there be a relief of Mafeking before its surrender the Boer army would undoubtedly retreat, thus leaving the invaded British territory and occupying positions at which it was supposed by the British war office that the war would really commence. By this our readers will see that the initial of the war is over and the opposing forces are entering the second stage.

Ladysmith was entered by the British on March 1 and the news flashed to every part of the earth. Never in history has there been witnessed such demonstrations of joy as were seen in every part of the English possessions immediately. In London the people were particularly demonstrative and wildly exuberant in their joy. Nobility and plebian, high and low, rich and poor fraternized and rejoiced with the wildest demonstrations. Probably such outbursts were never before seen in any land outside France, where the people are much more volatile in their expressions of feelings. The wildness of the rejoicings reaching almost a point of delirium were noted by every newspaper of the day. While the relief of the city was a most substantial gain, the costs of the campaign have been immense.

The surrender of Gen. Cronje and the later death of the most eminent of the Boer generals, Joubert, has left the chief command of the Boer forces in the hands of Lieutenant General Luis Botha, who was promoted to command in Natal immediately after the defeat of Gen. Cronje. As will be remembered by our readers, the British army after the surrender of that general concentrated around Bloemfontein, the capital of the Orange Free State, which quickly surrendered to Gen. Roberts, who immediately occupied it and practically took possession of the whole country in the name of his sovereign. The Boer army was apparently much divided and in retreating the Free Staters quite generally returned to their homes, leaving the retreating Transvaalian army to keep up the contest.



WAR REJOICINGS IN LONDON.

At this point the British army under Lord Roberts are resting and awaiting necessary supplies of clothing suitable for the rapidly approaching cold weather, before continuing the march toward Pretoria, the capture of which Capital is the object of the present advance. Happy British subjects, immediately after the defeat of Cronje, were setting the date of the occupancy of the city by the British as from May 1 to May 15. This dream was dispelled by the increased activity of the Boer forces during the early part of April and successive Boer victories in a series of important though minor engagements, which seriously hampered the invading party. As Pretoria is a strongly fortified city and as the Boers apparently intend to prolong the contest indefinitely there can be little real expectation that the capture of Pretoria will occur at any very early date.

Leaving the historical record of the war at this point, let us look into one or two of the subjects which have been raised by some of the writers who have inquired of our editors on certain lines; questions which are willingly answered as we gladly note the interest aroused. The paragraph and subject will readily indicate the nature of the questions which have been asked and upon which the writers desired answers.



GEN. LUIS BOTHA.

The Mauser rifle was first brought to the attention of the American public during the Spanish war, by its great superiority over the muskets carried by most of our troops, which burned black powder and were generally of the pattern adopted immediately after our Civil war. The Mauser is one of the many approved types of quick-firing magazine rifles of great range. The penetrating powers of the Mauser bullet are very great, as are those of all modern guns. It will kill a man behind a tree large enough to hide his body, after piercing through the whole tree. In the body the Mauser inflicts a small, clean and nearly painless wound of small diameter, without tearing the muscles or shattering the bones, as will balls from larger caliber muskets of less power. The ball drills the hole cleanly and leaves no bleeding unless an artery be cut. At close quarters it is not so effective as the old style bullet, although at near range the effect is more like it as to character of wounds and shattering of bones. As every soldier now carries septic bandages as a part of his kit, the great majority of Mauser wounds heal rapidly. It is said the reports from surgeons in the present war show that between eighty and ninety per cent. of the wounded in the field recover, a most remarkable gain over former losses by war.

Our Canadian neighbors are much interested in the brilliant career of Lieutenant Colonel W. D. Otter, commanding the Canadian troops in South Africa, and well they may be as the Colonial troops of the Empire have fought devotedly and with the greatest valor. It is to be noted that the Canadian and Australian contingents have shown much more of the adaptability of our own soldiers than any others. Their quickness to adopt a kind of fighting and manœuvring suitable to the character of the country and the almost invariable success of their encounters, shows them to be fighters and soldiers of the highest order. Col. Otter himself has shown great energy, discretion and valor and by his resourceful courage and leadership, has proven a shining mark often when the English sky was one of gloom.



LIEUT. COL. W. D. OTTER.

After the unusual celebrations at the English capital which occurred after the relief of Ladysmith, the London populace was again swept off its feet by the enthusiasm caused by a royal progress through London, March 8th, for a few days' stay at Buckingham Palace. The Queen was much affected by the extravagant demonstrations of delight and affection with which she was welcomed and which continued several days. Moved by the great bravery of the Irish regiments in the war, Her Majesty gave directions that the shamrock should be worn by all Irish soldiers on St. Patrick's day. This direction was construed broadly and for the first time in history the Irish flag and shamrock were displayed all over Great Britain with wild enthusiasm on the 17th of March.

In addition to this gracious act Her Majesty for the first time since 1861 took a trip to Ireland and was received at Dublin and other points with much enthusiasm. Her reception showed a degree of patriotism among the Irish which was as gratifying to the government as it was unexpected. The long struggle between the two countries seems to have been dropped, at least for the present, by mutual consent of both parties.

So much has been said of General Lord Kitchener and his ability in this and former campaigns that we can no better close this article than by pleasing at least one inquirer with a personal description of him. He stands several inches over six feet in height, straight as an arrow, and looks commandingly over most men's heads; his motions are slow and steady; lithe in build and of that tireless steel-like endurance which accomplishes more than sudden great strength. His eyes are steady and passionless and look out straight at you from under heavy eyebrows. His complexion is burned to a deep red and his long moustache droops over a stern, immovable mouth. It is on the whole a face that neither asks affection nor creates dislike. His expression seems almost unvarying. The brain and will are the essence of the man—a brain and a will so perfect in their workings that, in face of extremest difficulty, they hardly seem to realize what struggle is.

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Strange Nests of Arctic and Tropic Birds.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



IT IS interesting to note that now many of the Arctic and Tropic birds belong within the territory of the United States. Most of our Arctic birds are those of Alaska, and it is wonderful how intelligently they have protected their young from icy winds and snow. Their nests are often *within* the ground in tunnels or burrows.

"The soil in the deep woods," says one writer, "was fairly honeycombed with nesting burrows." The Rhinoceros Auks tunnel in the slopes of the hills, and the Auklets on the hilltops, while the Puffins are near the sea. These underground nests have many turns and are sometimes ten feet long, and all this for the safety of a single egg. Father and mother birds relieve each other in their daily and nightly watch over their treasure.

Strange to say, mound nests are found in hot countries. In this case the birds build up the mounds on the earth instead of excavating below its surface. The Australian mound-birds sometimes raise mounds fourteen feet high and fifty-five feet in circumference! I hardly know whether we should consider them as lazy or shrewd when we discover they construct these mounds of decayed leaves and decomposing vegetable matter that by fermenting throw out heat—a hotbed, in fact—and so hatch the eggs with very little brooding or care from the parent bird. Flamingoes are well-known mound builders, making cones with a hollow on top, and the Spoonbills, like several other bird families construct platforms of sticks.

There is a lovely violet orange bird of the East, the Roller, that both excavates burrows in rocks and sand and nests in hollow trees. A traveler found one of the nests in a hollow oak of Bashan and in a Wady, not far, I think from Jericho, found a number of nest-burrows under a rock ledge overhanging a chasm, where only wings were safe!

As a rule the nests of the larger tropical birds honeycomb the hollow trunks of the forest trees as the Arctic birds honeycomb the ground. What more perfect hiding places could be found than such trees, overgrown with vines, gorgeous with bloom? The brilliant plumage is unnoticed in such a background. The Hornbills, the Toucans, the Cockatoos, the myriads of Parrots and Parroquets all nest in this way. If you wish a Grass Parroquet to build a nest, you need not supply him with wool or down. He desires only "a piece of wood with a rough hole in it."

The nest weavers of the tropics are the Humming-birds, whose tiny bickered cups with silken lining we know well, and the wee Sunbirds, as brilliant as the Humming-birds in shining scarlet and gold and violet and glossy black by way of contrast. They belong to the Philippine Islands, and their nests are marvels of beauty and skill. Many of them are unlike any seen before. A favorite shape seems to be that of a flat purse with its entrance at the lower end. This is hidden securely on the inner side of a leaf. Mr. John Whitehead, an enthusiastic explorer and naturalist, found a nest woven by the little crimson-breasted "Flower-pecker," which is like a bit of fairy work. It is rose-colored, just as if it were woven of a rose's petals, and is covered with silver threads from a certain spider. As it hangs from its green leaf it must look like a blossom.

Builders in sunny weather,
Weave sticks and straw together
As happy as days are long!
For deep in the Father's heart,
Has even His sparrow a part,
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FOR BRAINY PEOPLE

14	5	23	25	15	18	11				
23	1	19	8	9	14	7	20	15	14	
3	8	9	3	1	7	15				

FOR BRAINY PEOPLE

Each one of the above three lines of figures spells the name of a great city in the United States. This is a brand new puzzle and can be solved with a little study, as follows: There are twenty-six letters in the alphabet, and we have used figures in spelling the cities instead of letters. Letter A is number 1, B number 2, C number 3, etc., throughout the entire alphabet. **IF YOU CAN SPELL OUT THESE THREE CITIES YOU MAY SHARE IN THE DISTRIBUTION OF $1,000 WHICH WE ARE GIVING AWAY** for doing a little work for us. This you can do in less than one hour of your time. This and other most liberal offers are made to introduce one of the very best New York magazines into every home in the United States and Canada. **WE DO NOT WANT ONE CENT OF YOUR MONEY.** When you have made out the names of these three cities, write them plainly on a postal card and send it to us, and you will hear from us promptly **BY RETURN MAIL.** It may take an entire evening to solve the three names, but **STICK TO IT AND TRY TO GET YOUR SHARE OF THE $1,000.** A copy of this high-class **ONE DOLLAR MAGAZINE WILL BE SENT FREE** to everyone answering this advertisement. Do not delay. Send your answer in immediately. Address **ROBINSON PUBLISHING CO., 24 North William Street, New York City.**



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CURRENT TOPICS IN AMERICAN HISTORY.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



JUDGE TAFT.

THAT the selection of a commission to govern the Philippine Islands would be a wise one could not be doubted by those who have followed the appointments of President McKinley. No administration has ever had to fix the personnel of so many non-partisan commissions as the present one; nor to select commissions on so many important national and international questions. It is a remarkable fact that so wise and judicial have been these selections that not an appointment has ever been criticised, whether the appointee were Republican or Democrat, and without exception the men selected have been recognized as the proper persons to be sent as representatives of the two great parties in the politics of our Republic.

That the selection of the Philippine Commission would be one of most careful consideration could not be doubted, and it is gratifying to note that the members chosen are of the highest ability and character. Men of worth and distinction, who are not and never have been politicians. They will relieve General MacArthur of much of his responsibility when they reach the Archipelago. The commission as finally made up and confirmed consists of: Judge W. H. Taft, of Ohio, President; Professor Dean C. Worcester, of Michigan; General Luke Wright, of Tennessee; Judge Henry C. Ide, of Vermont and Professor Bernard Moses of California.

This commission will practically govern the Philippines until Congress shall have agreed upon some definite course in regard to the future government of the islands. The question of the future of our new possessions has been fought out in Congress, in part, on the question of a duty of goods to and from Porto Rico. A tariff imposing 15 per cent. of the Dingley tariff on the imports and exports has passed both houses by close majorities in a party vote. It is not the intention of COMFORT to discuss questions having political bearing, so that we will not enter into the question beyond pointing out a distinction.

Supposing any of the annexed islands to come in as territory of the United States, they do so under the Constitution and are entitled to territorial government and future statehood, consequently under the constitution no taxes or import duties can be imposed on commerce any more than between that of our different States. On the other hand, it is urged that the Constitution did not contemplate foreign annexation of soil and that these islands must be governed outside the Constitution. In other words, that for the present they must be regarded as colonies having home government but not as part of the territory of the United States, and consequently not in line of future statehood.

It would seem to be prudent to make haste slowly as no thoughtful reader can consider the probability of the enormous representation in Congress that these islands, inhabited by mixed and colored races, would be entitled to were they adopted as terms of absolute equality. Much that is being printed at the present time is for political purposes and on the careful thought of what is best for the country.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier, the premier of Canada, recently announced that the meetings of the Joint High Commission, which had under consideration so many disputed questions relating to the United States and Canada, is soon to recommence its work. It is to be hoped that this is true and that their consideration may lead to a satisfactory and just basis on which to finally settle the questions of mutual interest, boundaries, fisheries etc. which so often arise to hamper the pleasant relations which should always exist between the two countries.

The surprise of the past month was the unexpected appearance of Admiral Dewey in the political arena as a contestant for presidential honors. The country had generally settled to the belief that McKinley and Bryan were to represent the two parties. In the New York World of April 4th, the Admiral notified the public that he had changed his mind as expressed in the fall, when he declined to be considered as a candidate, and that he is now willing to serve the American people if they desire it.

At the time of his return in the *Olympia* he was undoubtedly feared as a possible candidate. His prompt refusal in a measure withdrew him. His present action has caused all sorts of beliefs as to his motives to appear. While many believe it the ingenuous action of a man not accustomed to politics, others look upon it as a well-considered scheme of practical political leaders. Dewey's announcement seems to have had no practical effect among republicans, but as he has decided he is a democrat, his candidacy in a measure is against that of Col. Bryan. Exactly what is the purpose of the Dewey appearance, if purpose it has, will appear before the meeting of the Democratic Convention in Kansas City, July 4th.

It is significant that on the very day the public first learned of this decision, the Pennsylvania Democrats in convention reaffirmed their belief in the Chicago platform of 1896 and endorsed, unanimously, Col. Bryan for the presidency.

The widely-spread report that the British government had opened the official letters of Consul Macrum, our Transvaal representative, on investigation by a House committee were found without foundation. At the same time, Webster Davis, the assistant Secretary of the Interior, who recently returned from South Africa has resigned his position in order that he may be free to express himself freely regarding his Boer sympathies and the war. He announces his intention to educate the Americans relative to the Dutch. Our public laugh at Englishmen who write books on America after a few weeks' visit to this land, and they may retaliate on Mr. Davis' proposal which comes after a flying trip to Pretoria.

The embroglio in Kentucky, which was mentioned in the last number of COMFORT, still continues. The Supreme Court of the State has confirmed the right of Beckham, the Democratic claimant of the governor's chair since the death of Goebel, while Governor Taylor still holds the office and acts. A large reward for the assassins c. Goebel has stimulated many people into confessions of plots and complicity. In one recently made Governor Taylor and other high state officials in the Republican ranks were parties in the crime. Intelligent opinion of the many conflicting stories can hardly be formed, as both sides seem to promulgate all manner of stories to meet the partisan needs of the moment. Outsiders can only guess at the real condition in the Blue grass State.

Wide-spread comment attends the opening of the Paris Exposition from the fact that the United States has the next largest exhibit to France itself. It fairly distances in size and distinctiveness those of the large commercial countries lying adjacent to France. The fine character of the American exhibit shows the progressive spirit of our commercial interests, and incidentally how America is rapidly pushing to the front as a great world power.

A MAGIC FLUTE ROMANCE.

John Henderson is the luckiest man in the West. If you don't believe it ask him and he will confess it, and tell you moreover that he owes all his good luck in his life to the Magic Flute. It is a strange story, but the true facts are these: Mr. Henderson was in love. The object of his affections was a beautiful young girl of his native town, Des Moines. She was a musical enthusiast and had suitors by the score, for she was not only charming and beautiful of face and figure, but to these graces she added the talent of a superb musician. Naturally, though Mr. Henderson pressed his suit with great ardor, as he was not a performer on any musical instrument he failed to make the desired impression, however much he loved music, and dearly loved the object of his affections.

Happening in Omaha one day, quite disconsolate, he was astonished to hear sweet and tender strains issuing from the rear door of what proved to be a music store. He paused at the curbstone and listened. It was one of the favorite songs of his beloved, and so mellow and sweet were the sounds that they brought tears to his eyes. Entering the store the stranger asked what sort of an instrument it was that gave forth such magic sounds. He was shown the Magic Flute which had just arrived from New York. Thinking that the instrument that performed such tone miracles must have cost a hundred dollars or more, he was amazed to see what a trifling sum. He bought the instrument, and the next day returned to his native city and that night under the window of the maiden who had rejected him for his lack of musical abilities, Mr. Henderson poured forth his soul in the songs she loved so well. What was the result? The neglected lover was reinstated in the affections of the fair one, the rival suitors retired beaten in the game, and shortly after he was offered a large nightly sum by a celebrated impressario to appear in concert halls in the leading cities of the United States. Mr. and Mrs. Henderson, completely happy and full of gratitude for the working of the Magic Flute, are at present traveling in the East, playing to large houses, Mrs. Henderson accompanying her husband on the piano. The musical world is amazed and delighted with the performances of Mr. Henderson on the Magic Flute. And yet his case is merely typical. You may not win a lovely bride by your skill on the wonderful instrument, but one thing you can do, even if you do not know one note from another, you can play a tune in five minutes and should delight your friends with it within a week.

We have made arrangements with the manufacturers to introduce these wonderful Flutes, and will send one free, all charges paid, including a trial yearly subscription to all sending 25c. to COMFORT Subscription Department, Augusta, Maine. Agents are selling large quantities of these Flutes and you better not delay in sending for a sample and getting wholesale prices.

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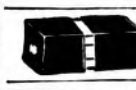


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How To Cure RUPTURE

DEAR READER:—It gives me much pleasure and satisfaction to write this little story, for it contains a new and wonderful method of curing rupture or hernia, and places before the afflicted words of hope and tidings of great joy.

It is not my intention to use medical words or terms for the purpose of confusing those who are not familiar with them. I am sure this would not be more valuable for using those technical terms which some use, for the sole purpose of making some ignorant one believe they possess extraordinary knowledge

I am not going to describe the many ways one may become ruptured. In the many years I have treated ruptures I have been told of more than a thousand different things that caused my patients' affliction. That you are ruptured, and that I can cure you, is the purpose for which this is written, and it will surely be a blessing, coming unawares to those who follow its teachings.

There are several kinds of rupture and they are named according to their location, the most common being Scrotal, Umbilical (navel) and Femoral. They are again divided into two classes as reducible or irreducible. The reducible is one that can be returned to its proper place within the abdomen. The irreducible is one that cannot be returned. The last named is caused by going without a truss, but mostly by using some poor and ill-constructed one.



RUPTURED.

There are many people who are ruptured and don't know it. They will have at times a slight pain in the lower part of the abdomen. If they do much lifting or straining work it grows worse and will at times get so bad they think they have an attack of colic, lie down, and in many cases the pain will disappear, because whatever was out returns to its natural position. But in other cases the surgeon has to be called because the rupture has become strangulated. In some cases he succeeds in reducing it, in others a surgical operation is necessary, and with others after hours of agony death only gives relief.

The best time to attend to a rupture is when it is small, perhaps in some cases no larger than an acorn. Many who have small ruptures say, "It is only a small one, does not give me any trouble, no need to bother about that."

SMALL RUPTURE DANGEROUS Let me say right here that to neglect the small rupture is one of the most terrible mistakes possible, for every minute life is in danger of immediate and painful death by strangulation, for the opening is so small that it only allows one intestine to come down. It then requires great force or pressure to move the contents and in many cases it becomes constricted which is very apt to prove fatal or require a painful surgical operation at a great cost of time and money.

HAVE YOU Perhaps you have suffered for years with rupture. If so, I have no doubt but you have tried many trusses and methods of cure, expended many dollars and always the same result—failure. Perhaps you have been told by some one or it has been spoken in your presence and you believed it because you never took time to think about it, that "rupture could not be cured."

IT CAN BE CURED Just think a minute of what is going on in your body. Two agencies at work, one constantly tearing you down, the other building you up or repairing, and as long as your vitality is good the repairing force keeps you in perfect health. Suppose you broke your arm, never had it set, or the proper appliance used to make it reunite and heal, the result would be that you would always have a broken arm. But you do have the proper attendance and care, and your arm in a short time is well again. So your rupture will heal if given the same chance—viz.: retain everything in a natural position the same as if there was no rupture and nature will do the rest. But the facts are:—you became ruptured, experienced very little or no pain, and you broke off from day to day using the correct appliance needed to assist nature in its work. You needed a truss that would hold under every condition the strain from the injured part until it was healed, and strong enough to perform its work again. You need an appliance that HOLDS AND HEALS WHILE YOU WORK.

HOW COULD THIS HEAL The trusses that have been placed on afflicted ones in the past were constructed on the wrong principle and are now things of the past. In their day some were considered good and in some cases gave partial relief. They would hold one day and perhaps the next day would let the hernia out many times. In fact never two days alike because they were not self-adjusting. Some thought when the elastic was introduced, "here is a perfect truss at last," but they soon found out their mistake. They place all dependence on elastic webbing or belts which go around the body and they must be pulled or buckled tight enough so they are a torture, to bring the pads in position to bear on the rupture. Everyone knows that the sweat of the body will soon rot the elastic in the webbing, and so they must be continually stretching and giving out; never two days alike; consequently the intestines are being let out of their natural position, and never give the rupture a chance to heal. How can that kind of a truss cure a rupture? A rupture to be cured must be held securely in its natural position. It is probably a waste of time to tell you about old style trusses. You know it all. You know how you have suffered in warm weather from sweating and chafing. The belts and straps pulled up so tight over the galled parts that you would think, "I would rather die than suffer this any longer," and many, after repeated trials, unable to bear the torture any longer, are risking their lives and living in misery without a truss.

HOW TO CURE To effect a cure of hernia, all know that the hernial tumor or intestines must be held in an easy, comfortable and natural position, in fact to be in the same natural position that they would be in if there was no rupture. It has been my great fortune to have placed in my possession a new idea in the shape of what I may call a truss. Do not think it is one of those instruments of torture you have seen that has ropes, pulleys, elastics, etc. To compare mine with others would be like comparing the electric light with an old fashioned lamp. My appliance or truss stands out alone as a new idea, something far ahead of anything ever before placed upon a human being. A wonderful invention, holds with comfort everything in its proper, natural position, giving nature the chance to heal she has been waiting for. IT IS AS EASY TO WEAR AS A STOCKING, safe, simple, cleanly and durable.

WILL LAST 100 YEARS IF NEEDED Cool and comfortable in warm weather, has no parts to chafe, does not absorb the foul odors of the body, always in place, always comfortable, always healing. It has no elastic webbing, no straps between the legs and no spring around the body. No matter what your position is, it never need changing.

YOU WORK WHILE IT HEALS No loss of time. Our appliance stands out alone, a new idea, PATENTED BY THE U.S. GOVERNMENT, and has been proven to be far in advance of any other appliance for the cure of rupture.



CURED.

DOES IT DO THIS Does your truss hold you at all times? Is it comfortable, giving you a feeling of safety that you are all right? Is your rupture week by week growing smaller? If not, throw away that truss. Don't lose your health, perhaps your life, with such a contrivance. It is wrong in principle, wrong in construction, and may do a positive injury. In many cases the trusses are made and sold by persons who never saw a rupture. Belts, elastics, springs, and in fact everything that could be made, that some kind of a pad was fastened to, was put on to sufferers as a truss.

WHAT YOU WANT Is an appliance that holds everything in its natural position, SAFE, SURE, CLEANLY, HEALING, COMFORTABLE. So easy that you do not realize you are ruptured. You ask, "Is there such an appliance?" The answer is, "Yes! for I HAVE THAT APPLIANCE!" The inventor of this wonderful truss, the Rev. Jeremiah Hayden, who was chaplain of the 17th Maine Regiment, says:

THE PASTOR'S STORY "Finding myself ruptured, I sought advice of an elder brother who had the same trouble. He said, 'I have been ruptured for forty years, and have spent over $300 for trusses, and the one I have on now is the best one I ever had. It cost me $15 (it was an elastic truss) but it is breaking and I must get another.' On examination I found an elastic strap around him with every stitch of the webbing printed on his body, while the understrap that passed between his legs had chafed him so that he was red and sore. This led me to discover my truss, which is as EASY TO WEAR AS A STOCKING, and which ended all pain, danger and cost, and never needs repairing. I want to get it into the hands of my fellow-men who are suffering from this dangerous and painful infirmity, for I know it will be worth a hundred times its cost. I am broken down with kidney and heart disease, and I am in constant expectation of death. (82 years old.) The thought has been constantly before me: an invention which has the power to relieve so much suffering should not be buried with me. As I am not able, I want you to take measures to introduce it to the world, and if this is accomplished, I shall feel that my life has been of value to sufferers. As I have reflected upon the miseries of millions without means of relief, and the dismal certainty of their growing worse, and considered that I have in my keeping a comfortable, sure fitting, never failing remedy, amply proven and tested in my own and other cases, and which, at a glance, common sense will appreciate, I feel that it would be a giant wrong to mankind to have this invention buried with me, for AS I VALUE MY HONOR IN THIS WORLD AND MY SOUL IN THE NEXT, I unhesitatingly declare that a failure in any instance is impossible." A truly most wonderful invention; a blessing to mankind. An article that will cure, because it will hold everything just right, in its natural position, which gives the rupture a chance to re-unite and heal.

CAN YOU DOUBT What more need be said than the minister's statement printed above? Does any one believe for a moment that Mr. Hayden would make a statement he did not believe true? Will you be benefited by my method? It costs so little and success is certain. Why will you drag out a miserable existence when the means of relief are at your command?

TERMS: NO CURE, NO PAY It is the perfect confidence I have in my method of cure that warrants me in adopting the above terms. Surely I have great faith in my way of treating rupture or I would never make the following proposition to you. It is a fair, honest offer that no other firm dare make, because they have not the goods to back it up. You will carefully fill up the Measure Blank with the answers to the questions asked thereon. We also ask you to sign our Special Order Blank. You will please send us those two blanks and the small sum stated on the Special Order Blank with your order. The reason I ask you to send this guarantee with the order is, there are so many people who are always writing for anything they can get for nothing. Many would write who are not ruptured. They know some one who is, and they want to get for nothing something they can sell the afflicted party for $10 or $15. There are others who have no gratitude in them; their object seems to be to get all they can for nothing and in no way ever think of repaying a favor or paying what rightfully belongs for them to pay. THIS I KNOW FROM ACTUAL EXPERIENCE. To keep such parties from troubling me, I have decided on the following plan: You are to send the two blanks before mentioned and the small amount stated thereon, the same to be held by us as a small guarantee of good faith. Upon receipt of same we at once send you by mail, all charges paid and safe delivery guaranteed, a truss, the same to be used by you. When cured you are to promptly send us $4.00 more and return our truss, which we only lend you. Many who get cured say they want to keep the truss. To all I will say that I will sell it at a fair price and charge according to the work done, and it will not be over $10. The terms I have offered are fair and liberal, no fair-minded person can say they are not, and I will not under any circumstances deviate from them.

Will you, after these plain and truthful statements, continue to suffer and risk your life by wearing an old style, imperfect truss? Dare you go without one knowing you are daily growing worse, and that within a short time you will become a total wreck? Dare you lay this aside before you give it a trial, which costs you nothing if you are not satisfied? Do you think it is a humbug? If we were frauds we would not ask such a small sum with the order; we would ask $5.00 or $10.00. A fraud never expects a second order, so they get all the first.

We can fit an infant, or a man or woman weighing 300 lbs. Fleshy ladies having navel ruptures will find it a great blessing. No hot bands around you. It is the only truss that can be worn by women and be clean and comfortable. Ruptured women who are pregnant can wear it and avoid many hours and days of misery. Don't put off ordering it. Do it today; tomorrow may be too late. What more need be said to convince you? We warrant A PERFECT FIT IN EVERY CASE.

SEE THE TESTIMONIALS Be sure to fill out the two blanks. The truss fits all kinds of ruptures. In closing will say I have cured many who have had bad ruptures and can cure you if you will only let me. I can be the means of doing you much good, and hope to hear from you in the near future. If you wish the names of people in your own state who endorse our method, send postage and we will send you their names.

MY GUARANTEE The perfect confidence I have in my truss, and the knowledge I have from actual experience of its curing properties enables me to guarantee every truss. Your rupture may be small, or it may be one that only at times gives you little pain or trouble. Did you ever know a rupture that did not from month to month grow worse? Let me say right here that there is nothing so dangerous as a rupture. Nothing keeps a man or woman so near death, nothing causes so much trouble or the cause of so many surgical operations. The ways of Providence are wonderful. This advertisement may be one of its methods of warning, coming to you unawares, which if neglected means your death. Don't be deceived or have your mind changed by some one who has trusses for sale or who gets a commission by getting a truss for you. They will lose the money, so they will say, "Don't send for the Surehold Truss; it is so cheap it can't be good," and then they will offer to sell you something costing $5.00 and upwards, and say, "This is good because we ask a big price for it." The fact is they make so few sales that when they do find a customer they charge enough to keep themselves going until they get another victim to fleece. Just say to such people that the Surehold Truss is not sold, it is only loaned, and just as soon as you are cured I get the truss back and $4.00 more. I have thousands of patients, so it pays me. Ask others to let you have their goods on the same terms as I do, and I will warrant you will get some flimsy excuse.

A MAN CURED WHILE HE WORKED. DEAR SIR: I cannot find words to express my thanks. I tried many kinds and never one that would hold me. The Surehold holds me in all places and at all kinds of work, and I have never lost a day's time. I am cured entirely and have not had to wear a truss for many weeks. I have worked hard shoveling and wheeling coal; traveling up and down stairs at my work as watchman. Some nights I have put in more than a ton of coal. G. S. MOSLEY, Norwood, Mass.

A WOMAN CURED AFTER 18 YEARS OF SUFFERING, AGE 61. DEAR SIR: I cannot say enough in favor of your truss. Please accept my most sincere thanks for the benefit I have received. I have not worn a truss for three months now. I had previously worn a truss day and night for over 18 years. I have worked hard all the fall drying fruit and doing the duties of the household. I heartily wish that every man, woman or child who has suffered as I did would be convinced that your truss will cure rupture. I wish you long life and prosperity and an eternal life in the future. Yours truly, MARTHA DAVIS, Diamond, Ark.

A BOY CURED MY BOY. SIR: Your truss has cured my boy when no other would, in the time you said it would. I am more than thankful to you. Every word you said was true. No need of any child suffering when they can be cured so easily.

MRS. MARY YARNELL, Middleton, Ohio.

☞ The above are only samples. We could print more testimonials than this paper could hold.

POSTMASTER I have examined the letters from which these testimonials were taken and guarantee the same to be genuine. I was also shown a great many other testimonials which speak in the highest terms of the Surehold Truss. CHAS. B. WOODMAN.

MAYOR WESTBROOK, ME. This is to certify that I am personally acquainted with Mr. Alexander Speirs, and consider him responsible for any contracts he may make, and strictly reliable. KING S. RAYMOND, (Mayor).

REFERENCE Any Bank, Mercantile Agency, Postmaster, Express Co., City Official, and the Publishers of this paper.

Men and women use the same measure blank.

SPECIAL ORDER BLANK.

ALEXANDER SPEIRS—DEAR SIR:—FIND ENCLOSED MY MEASURES, ALSO $1.40 AS A GUARANTEE, FOR ONE SINGLE SUREHOLD TRUSS (SEND $2.50 FOR DOUBLE TRUSS) TO BE SENT BY MAIL, ALL CHARGES PREPAID. WHEN CURED OF MY RUPTURE I PROMISE TO PAY $4.00 MORE AND RETURN THE TRUSS YOU SEND ME.

NAME .....

STREET, OR P. O. BOX IF YOU HAVE ONE .....

POST OFFICE .....

COUNTY ..... STATE .....

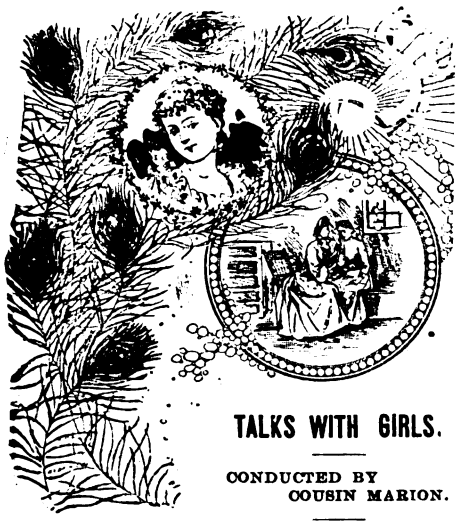
MEASURE BLANK.



1. How many inches do you measure around the body on a line with the rupture?
2. Are you ruptured on right side, left side, both sides, or navel?
3. About how large is the rupture?
4. How near the scrotum is it?
5. Does it descend into the scrotum?
6. Can you reduce or return it easily?
7. What is your height?
8. What is your weight?
9. What is your occupation?
10. How long have you been ruptured?
11. Mark as near as possible on picture where your rupture is.

State you saw this ad. in COMFORT.

ALEX. SPEIRS, Westbrook, Maine.



TALKS WITH GIRLS.

CONDUCTED BY
COUSIN MARION.

How pleasant is the month of May
With all the world so bright and gay,
With heart so light and eyes so bright,
It's like an opening summer day.

There, my dears, is a little verse of poetry for a greeting to you in this last and sweetest month of Spring, and may it always be May to you. Now let us go to talking about ourselves.

The first letter is from Alice of Lincoln, Me., who asks me a lot of questions about young men, but as she is only fifteen I refer her to her mother. She asks also whether the vertical or slanting style of handwriting is preferable and I answer that the vertical is better than any other because it is more legible.

Wild Rose, Lee, N. D.—It is proper for a girl to ask a young man to write to her if their friendship is of long standing. Usually the young man does the asking.

Fannie, Berlin, Md.—It is wrong to flirt either for fun or otherwise. It cheapens a girl and ought to make her ashamed of herself because it is one of the worst forms of deceit.

Hunnie, Braddock, Pa.—You must know a young man very well before you begin to find fault with him for going to see other girls. I fancy you are inclined to be jealous. Cure yourself of it or you will never be happy.

A. S., Dubuque, Ia.—It would not be right for me to help you with the letter your teacher wants you to write. Do it yourself, even if you don't win the prize.

Viola, Brotherton, Pa.—Consult your family physician about superfluous hair and freckles. There is danger in ignorance. (2) Wait for the young man to write.

Libbie, Ina, Mich.—If the young man never does anything worse than dance and play a friendly game of cards, he will get along all right. Give him a little latitude and use your influence to keep him within bounds. (2) The man may sit on either side of the lady and he usually walks on her left. (3) When anywhere together it is the lady's privilege to suggest when to leave.

Lizzette and Evelyn, Grand Rapids, Mich.—Paris is probably the better place for you to pursue your art studies. Rome later. (2) Sorry, but I am past the age when women love to be photographed and I have no pictures. Thank you just the same for the compliment.

Blue Eyes, Paragon, Ind.—If a girl has to pay a young man to come to see her she ought to find a better use for her money. (2) In an emergency it is proper to ask a young man to go home with you.

A. S. F. and Eline, Okabena, Minn.—Certainly, break the engagement if the man proves to be unworthy. Why not? (2) Make the young man wait till the girl is ready. (3) You owe a duty to your parents and not less to yourself and the young man. Can't you and he arrange to marry and live with the "old folks?"

Country Blonde, Walnut Hill, Ga.—Consult advertisements in COMFORT for place to sell stamps. (2) Manufacturers can make spools cheaper than they can buy empty ones. (3) Ask any business man in your town about the bonds.

Dode, Chicago, Ills.—What else can the young man do but buy a new ring to replace the one he has lost? (2) Young men take scoldings good-naturedly from girls they like. Don't write to the Summer young man.

Snow Bird, Sycamore, Pa.—Refuse ever to see again the man who insults you. (2) Nice girls never wink at anybody. (3) The young man who makes "something bad" out of what you say to him is not a gentleman and you should cut his acquaintance. (4) It is quite proper for a man to tell a girl she is pretty, if she is. (5) Ten years is about the right difference in age for man and wife.

Jessie, Bowling Green, Ky.—If you should win the young man by dyeing your hair, what would you do when after you were married the dye comes out? Do you think he would love a girl who cheated him like that? (2) You must use your own judgment in refusing the young man.

American Girl, Gomer, Ohio.—A man that is hard to get along with as a sweetheart will be a hundred times worse as a husband, and you had better let him go. You need not be particular about his feelings in doing it either.

Young Writer, Delaware, Ill.—Submit your writings to your country editor and get your literary start that way.

Lucille W., Parkersburg, W. Va.—Don't "drop" the young man exactly, but let him down easy. He is too young for you anyhow and is likely to become very tiresome. Still, if you love him enough to choose him as against all other friends, go ahead. He's decent and respectable which is something in his favor.

Maid Marion, Bloomington, Ill.—Ladies in good society do smoke cigarettes, but it is not to their credit and should not be followed as an example by people of real refinement. (2) Yes, have a jolly good time but be careful always, so as to avoid even talk. Popularity is something you will have to let go to your successors. It can't stay with you always. (3) Simply pull the hair out of the mole. (4) Bleached hair ought to fall out. (5) There is no positive preventive of the stoutness you mention except by general thinness.

Cassy, Bloomfield, Ill.—The young man who deliberately breaks an engagement is unworthy of confidence again, and you should by all means have no more to do with him. (2) A young man who is a gentleman will return your ring to you when you want it. (3) Simple powder may be used on the face, but never paint.

Tempest, West Union, Neb.—It is quite proper for you to go "with a fellow after he has insulted" you. Don't you know that gentlemen always insult ladies? Why are you so silly?

Ollie, Clifton, Ky.—You may kiss the young man if you are engaged to him. (2) Don't marry till after you are through school. (3) There is no cure for inherited diseases. (4) A girl may visit in the neighborhood where her sweetheart lives.

Hope, Halsey, Ore.—A girl may learn dressmaking as soon as she can sew, but she won't know much about it till she has had several years' experience. (2) It is better to wear corsets about the house, unless you want to give them up entirely. (3) Dances are all right if you want to go to them. That is, nice dances.

Violette, Springville, Ala.—Drop the young man who tries to make love to two girls. He is bound to be lying to one of them. (3) Engaged girls usually give up their other men friends as soon as the engagement is known.

Harriet, Adirondack, N. Y.—You may ask another girl to go walking with you and your beau, but it isn't customary. (2) You may go walking alone with him every night if you are engaged. (3) Suit your taste in what you serve at a birthday party.

Anxious One, Sacramento, Cal.—A girl should never accept a man's attention when he is polite to her only when it suits his pleasure. If she does she deserves every snub she gets.

Hawthorne, Fair Oaks, Tenn.—Wear a simple white dress at your graduating exercises, and of the usual length. Ask your teacher the other questions you ask me.

Wild Flower, Great Bend, N. Y.—Have nothing to do with the articles you mention as seeing advertised. Talk to your family physician.

Chatter Box, Villa Grove, Ill.—Say almost anything except "You are welcome," when a man thanks you for dancing with him. (2) Don't stand at the gate very long, and you are the one to go first. (3) Order breakfast or lunch or supper from a menu all at once; dinner is in this order, usually, oysters, soup, fish, meats and vegetables, salad, dessert, coffee.

Brown Eyes, Dunham, Ind.—The nicest kind of people dance the round dances. (2) The lady should return with the escort who took her. (3) No, a young man should not "hang around" a lady at a party. (4) Girls of sixteen should not go to dances or have beaus. (5) A young man may act as escort to two or more young ladies.

C. B. O., Chillicothe, O.—Help the young man on with his overcoat if he needs help, which I don't think he does.

Vivian, Attica, Kans.—Sensible women do not lace. It is neither becoming, artistic nor healthful. (2) You ask too many questions at once.

Two Brunettes, Cooperstown, N. D.—Tell the young man when it is time to go if he hasn't sense enough to know. (2) There is no set form of speech for accepting courtesies. Use your judgment.

Prudence, Mill Creek, Miss.—If you can't win the young man's affection any other way than by kissing him, let his affection go to grass.

Florence, Astoria, Ore.—Flirting is a despicable form of deceit. That is the best definition I know. (2) In Astoria a young woman may go rowing with a young man by moonlight. (3) Does your sense of propriety tell you to let the young man kiss you? If it does, then let him kiss you.

Beatrix, Davenport, Ia.—Meeting the man at your sister's you may invite him to call and accept his invitation to an entertainment. (2) Yes, the lady may take the man's arm without his asking her to. (3) It is quite correct to offer refreshments of some simple kind to callers in the evening. You may or may not, as you please. This may include a cigar to the man if you don't object to smoking. (5) Polite, but not customary.

Pansy, Highland, Tenn.—Don't believe the young man who drinks whiskey. All the chances are he will not tell you the truth.

Mocking Bird, Lake City, Fla.—The young man in the dance should hold your arm below the elbow. (2) The young man may talk love if he means it. If you do not like it, tell him so.

Auburn Tresses, Chatsworth, Ills.—Don't talk with strange men on trains, or elsewhere. Never flirt in any form, postage stamp or otherwise, and keep your locks of hair to yourself.

That is all, my dears, and those of you who are not answered directly will find answers that fit your cases in my answers to the other cousins. May life be pleasant to you all as the Springtime.

COUSIN MARION.

THE Prince of Wales is said to be insured for ten million dollars. Comparatively little of this sum, however, is for the benefit of the family of the insured, for about three millions of the full amount has been placed on the life of the Prince as a speculation by persons who do not know him and never had any relations with him whatever. This is allowed by some of the English companies, but would not be in this country. When the Prince undergoes an examination for insurance, speculators apply to the same company for policies on his life, and in this way many who have speculated in this way would be financially benefitted at his death.

AT the last convention of the American Whist League, a scale of punishments for the various crimes committed at the whist table was adopted, which was to be carried out to the letter; some of them are as follows:

Failing to notice partner's lead—to play for 30 consecutive evenings with women.

Failing to notice partner's signal for trumps—Death, or instruction of one or more young women in the game.

Failing to return partner's lead of trumps—To be ruled out of the game for one year.

Leading from a sneak—To be banished from polite and other society. For preferring lucky whist to duplicate—Life imprisonment.

For preferring any other game to whist—To be burned at the stake.

CLEAR SKIN ASSURED. Send $1.00 for Eminent English Physician's Prescription. Cures Bad Blood, Pimples, Blotches, Boils. Osborne Co., Box 878, Montreal, Canada.

RUPTURE CURED while you work. You pay $4 when cured. No cure, no pay. ALEX. SPEIRS, Box 17, WESTBROOK, MAINE.

LADIES WANTED to do writing at home. Good wages. No canvassing. Send stamped envelope for reply. MISS MODELLE MILLER, New Carlisle, Ind. Please mention COMFORT when you write.

HAIR LIKE THIS



We will forward FREE

To any address, full information how to grow hair upon the baldest head, stop hair falling, cure weak eyebrows and eyelashes, scanty parting, scurf, dandruff, itching scalp, and restore gray and faded hair to its natural color. Enclose 2 cent stamp for sealed package. Address Lorrimer & Co., 331 N. Howard St., Baltimore, Md.



EARN A CAMERA, or BRACELET, or GOLD-FILLED RING,

BY SELLING 10 PINS AT 10c. EACH.

These are beautiful Gold Stick Pins, set with rubies, pearls, emeralds, etc., and are worth twice the price.

Send us your name and full address. We will then send you the pins. You sell them, return the money to us, and choose premium—a camera, bracelet or ring, or any other premium in our large illustrated catalogue.

NOVELTY JEWELRY CO.
25 Bank St., Attleboro, Mass.

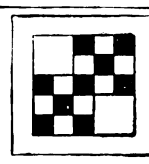


LEARN TO HYPNOTIZE!

Reader, do you desire to become a Hypnotist? Do you want to know how to utilize the most powerful and mysterious force of nature? Do you value control over others? Do you value the means of securing friendship, love and personal influence? Do you value the power to conquer pain and banish sickness, to reform a misguided friend, to gain business success, to win wealth, position and happiness? If you do, you must learn to Hypnotize. Why not? No other accomplishment is so easily acquired. It can be mastered in a few hours time, without leaving your home. It costs nothing to find out all about it. The greatest Hypnotist of the century has just issued in book form a large and exhaustive TREATISE, or Instructor in Hypnotism, covering the whole ground of his Science, and he will send it while the edition lasts, absolutely FREE TO ALL who apply. The book is profusely illustrated, containing hundreds of beautiful and artistic engravings, and shows as never was done before the principles, features, wonders and uses of this mysterious Science, all in a popular and pleasing style. It tells you just what Hypnotism is, and what you may accomplish with it. It shows you how you may sway the minds of others, perform astounding feats and produce amusement by the hour. New and instantaneous methods. Success absolutely guaranteed. Remember, this grand work costs you nothing. It benefits everybody who reads it. It places you in touch with the wonder-science of the age. Read it anyhow. It is absolutely FREE. A postal card will bring it by return mail, all charges paid. Apply at once to



PROF. L. A. HARRADEN, Box 320, JACKSON, MICH.



$2000 FREE A SQUARE AND HONEST IDEA OF ADVERTISING OUR MAGAZINE.

COUNT THE SQUARES We will divide Two Thousand Dollars, payable June 30, 1900, among those who correctly count the exact number. For instance if ten correct answers are received each receives $200, if forty correct answers are received each receives $50 and so on. It is difficult to find exact number, so correct answers will not be many. We require each contestant to send 10 cents for trial six months subscription and postage expenses, as we have no further conditions or requirements. The $2000 is an appropriation to introduce our magazine and if you look sharp you can be successful for a cash prize. Address BRADDON PUBLISHING CO., Box 1580, Philadelphia, Pa.

SEND ONE DOLLAR Cut this ad out and send to us, state number of inches across top of your buggy seat in front, from outside to outside, and we will send you this BUGGY TOP by freight, C. O. D. subject to examination. You can examine it at your freight depot, and if found perfectly satisfactory, the greatest bargain you ever saw, and equal to tops that retail at $15.00, pay the freight agent OUR SPECIAL PRICE, $7.50, less the $1.00, or $6.50 and freight charges. The freight charges will average about 80 cents for 500 miles. THESE TOPS ARE BUILT TO FIT ANY BUGGY OR ROAD WAGON. You can fit them on in 20 minutes. Made from 24-oz. best rubber drill, head and back stays lined with No. 14X cloth, side curtains unlined, 3 or 4 black japanned steel bows, japanned prop nuts, wrought iron shifting rail, patent buttons; which makes it adjustable; full length back curtain with glass window, valance front and rear. ORDER TODAY. WRITE FOR FREE BUGGY CATALOGUE.



SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO. (Inc.), Chicago.

$1,000 SALARY PER YEAR!

Ladies or Gentlemen We have shared the general prosperity of the country, and we now need one or two permanent representatives in each state to look after our interests, manage our agents, and attend to collections. This position involves no canvassing and is a bona fide weekly salaried position, with all expenses paid, to the right party. It is mainly office work conducted at your own home, with an occasional trip out among the agents. No investment required. Also three salaried vacancies in the traveling department. Enclose references and self-addressed stamped envelope to PROVIDENCE CO. A. Carton Bldg., CHICAGO.

FREE



DO YOU WANT A WATCH that runs & keeps good time This watch has a SOLID GOLD laid case, handsome dial dust proof, adjusted to position, patent escapement, and highly finished. This is a remarkable watch. We guarantee it, and with proper care it should wear and give satisfaction for 20 years. It has the appearance of a SOLID GOLD one. The watch is accompanied with a 20 YEAR GUARANTEE. The cases are beautifully made by the most skilled workmen. The movement is an AMERICAN STYLE, expansion balance, quick train, and you can rely upon it that when you own one of these truly handsome watches, you will at all times have the correct time in your possession. Do you want a watch of this character? If so, now is your opportunity to secure one. WE GIVE IT FREE as a premium to anyone for selling 18 pieces of our handsome jewelry, for 10c. each; (each set with an exquisite jewel), Regular price 25c. each. Simply send your name and address and we will send you the 18 pieces of jewelry postpaid. When sold send us the $1.50, and we will send you the handsome watch. We trust you and will take back all you cannot sell. We propose to give away these watches simply to advertise our business. No catch-words in this advertisement. We mean just what we say and allow a cash commission if preferred.. You require no capital while working for us. Address, SAFE WATCH CO., P. O. Box 180, New York.

$25 Free Mail Course

In Magnetic Healing, Hypnotism, Self-Healing, Self-Hypnotism, Absent Treatment, &c.

PAY AFTER YOU LEARN.

To be well taught never pay in advance. "This school goes much deeper into these occult sciences than any other. They teach every known phase and their combined course is the most complete ever published." Address EMPIRE COLLEGE, R 27, St. Louis, Mo.

$30 WEEKLY PAY positive sure. Don't miss this chance. It is a business that just suits everybody. Address, WORTH & CO., 181 Tremont Street, Boston, Mass.

WANTED SALESMAN in all parts of the U. S. and Canada, yearly contracts, salary and expenses, outfit furnished, THE J. S. BERRY MF'G. CO., Conneaut, Ohio.

PILES ELECTROBOLE gives instant relief. Final cure in a few days, never returns; no purge, no salve, no knife. Remedy mailed Free. Address J. H. REEVES, Box 695, New York, N. Y.



FREE! FOR EVERYBODY.

The Champion Fisherman's Outfit.

To everyone who likes to fish, either for sport, for the family, or for the market, we will send this Fisherman's Outfit free, postage paid, if he will get up a club of three subscribers for COMFORT at 25 cents each per year in advance.

Here it is, complete, nicely packed in a box.

No. 1. One Good Size Fine Polished Brass Reel. Will wind any line in first-class style. Works perfectly.

No. 2. One Linen Trout Line. Guaranteed to safely land the heaviest trout or fish of equal size.

No. 3. One Linen Bass or Salmon Line. Large, for big gamey fish, like salmon or black bass. This line will land the biggest fish caught with bait and sinker, or trolling from boat.

No. 4. One Long Cotton Line. Good for everyday fishing, after perch, catfish, sunfish, rock bass, etc.

No. 5. One Strong Line. Complete, with hook, bob and sinker. This is a whole outfit in itself, comprising long stout line with medium-sized hook attached, and neat movable bob and sinker. With bait at hand and this line in his pocket the fisherman can start right in and try his luck.

No. 6. One Dozen Best Steel Ringed Fish Hooks (assorted sizes). These are best grades of hooks warranted, strong, sharp in points and barbs, and handy to use, anybody being able to tie their line into the ring of the hook.

No. 7. Two Imported Trout Flies. They will draw trout from deep pools when other flies fail. They are natural, brilliant in colors, strongly fastened around the hooks.

No. 8. One Imported Bass Fly. For black bass fishing, and the equal of the trout fly in excellence of material.

No. 9. One Improved Salmon Fly. Of the best pattern, and perfect shape and color, sure to rise and catch the fish.

No. 10. Two Snell Hooks and Gut. These hooks are set on long guts, and where fish cut the lines one of these snell hooks can be safely used, the gut cannot be severed, and lands the fish every time.

These artificial flies and snells alone are worth the amount asked for the entire outfit.

Given as a premium for three yearly subscriptions to COMFORT at the special trial price of 25 cents each, or sent postpaid for 50 cents cash. Don't buy fishing tackle in the stores and pay fifty or seventy-five cents every day or two.

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CONDUCTED BY REGULUS.



SUMMER begins when the sun touches the boundary of his greatest northern declination, entering the sign Cancer at about 31 minutes past 4 o'clock in the afternoon of June 21st this year. A figure of the heavens erected for that moment at the seat of government in Washington shows the last decanate of Scorpio on the Ascendant, with Jupiter just below the eastern horizon and about to make his appearance in the east; Herschel is just below him in the Ascendant; Saturn is in the 2nd house; the Moon is in the 5th; Mercury and Venus in conjunction in the 8th near the 9th cusp; the Sun is in the 8th while Mars is just about to set below the western horizon.

The promises for the general good and prosperity of the country are reiterated in this quarterly figure and give cause for congratulation that in the midst of the turmoils of nations our progress and advancement as a nation is steady and sure. Jupiter on the Ascendant in his own domicile is strong for our welfare. It is true that Mars is in the 7th threatening some species of political strife or disorder among soldiers, mechanics, machinists, engineers, or firemen in our western regions, and probably some discontent or sedition in colonial regions or disagreement with some foreign power in the extreme west calling for diplomacy and possibly a show of determination and force for adjustment of difficulties. The quarter is likely to witness some periods of extreme heat with more than usual thunder and lightning and frequent showers especially in the last days of June and first part of July; but withal the air will be temperate and healthy. Foreign travel and pleasure excursions upon the water will be noticeably increased; more than ordinary success will attend the dealings of merchants and tradesmen in such commodities as wood, lumber, coal and mining products; unusual activity in the building trades is to be looked for, and mining industries will be much quickened.

One unfavorable feature noted is the indication of some increased mortality among men prominent in affairs of government or in the politics of the nation. A word of caution is suggested to all who are lovers of the "good things in life" or who are subject to apoplectic annoyances; and temperance and moderation should be the watch-word of such persons, especially if they are in public stations or much concerned in public affairs.

The Total Eclipse of the Sun on May 28th, this year, is an important one. It will be visible in North America, Europe and in Eastern Asia and Northern part of Africa. The central path of total eclipse passes through the northern part of Mexico, through New Orleans in Louisiana, Mobile, Raleigh, Norfolk, across the Atlantic, through Portugal, Spain, across the Mediterranean Sea, through Algeria at Algiers, and ends in Egypt near the Dead Sea. These vicinities are likely to suffer more than usually from atmospheric and terrestrial disturbances. Volcanic action and earth tremors are induced in such locations and diseases of an epidemic character may be expected thereabouts. Our sanitary authorities in the southern regions should be vigilant without ceasing for avoidance of any epidemic of yellow fever during the summer and fall of 1900. In general also, it will be wise for us all in the United States to protect our health conditions as related to the liver and bowels, and against such physical ailments as are due to disorders of these organs.

CELESTIAL CALENDAR FOR JUNE, 1900.

JUNE 1—Friday. The afternoon of this day is the best, when purchase of goods for trade in established business may be made with good assurance of profit or advantage, but the day generally can not be recommended for beginning any new undertaking, especially if it is concerned with railroads, bodies politic, or large organizations of men or corporations; have dealings with persons of wealth, lawyers, judges and ecclesiastics.

2—Saturday. See that every moment of this day is fully employed particularly for urging all the literary pursuits; push scientific and mathematical studies vigorously, but avoid transactions concerned with houses or lands and give thy landlord a wide berth in the afternoon.

3—Sunday. A superior Sabbath day, particularly fit for all religious engagements and conducive to zealous devotional exercises.

4—Monday. Look carefully to the purse in the early hours of this day when sales are more likely to be profitable than purchases; scrutinize all expenditures rigidly; nor is this day any improvement on those of this month which have already passed for the inauguration of any new business; have no dealings with banks nor persons of station; sign no money obligations, nor make promises of financial dealings for the benefit of friends.

5—Tuesday. Improve every moment of this day, particularly for the elegant and mechanical pursuits; travel, deal in metals, machinery and cattle; consult dentists and surgeons and deal with all in the manufacturing callings; the artist, musician and all in the artistic pursuits should waste no moments in idleness or pleasure for the passing time promises unusual advantage from works now begun or executed. The first half of the day invites the matrimonial contract and musical and dramatic engagements.

6—Wednesday. Seek not wealth from dealings in real estate, nor expect to find favor with aged persons during the middle hours of this day when also baffling and disappointing conditions prevail generally, such as are likely to give unsatisfactory results from efforts made; the late afternoon gives far superior conditions and all honorable business should then be pushed vigorously.

7—Thursday. This day favors all manner of engagements in connection with strange and uncommon subjects, promoting metaphysical discourse and antiquarian researches; make applications to officers of government and corporate bodies generally for any manner of favor or advantage; concern thyself with patents or patented goods, especially if thy nativity gives favorable promises in this respect radically.

8—Friday. The forenoon is adverse for any of the elegant pursuits; do not deal in fancy goods nor engage in decoration or adornment and let all be prudent in the pursuit of pleasure; as the noon is passed, however, crowd all engagements pertaining to literature, educational matters and contracts of a commercial character; do correspondence, adjust accounts, and urge scientific studies and mathematical work, engage with printers and deal in printing materials, also such commodities as coal, wood, lumber and agricultural products; also concern thyself with mining interests and lands.

9—Saturday. Continue thine efforts of yesterday, make contracts for building and repairing, also architectural and horticultural work and deal with persons engaged as agents, trustees and all fiduciary capacities.

10—Sunday. The forenoon gives no special promise of good, being rather conducive to rashness, peevishness and excitability when the temper will need to be well guarded; the afternoon gives marked improvement and encourages associations of a temperate and social nature, promising a good degree of satisfaction from the contemplation of the elegant in literature and art.

11—Monday. One of the best days of the month, to be fully improved for all undertakings in life. If it be the anniversary of thy birthday, thou mayst reckon with more than ordinary assurance upon quite a prosperous time at this period in the life unless the nativity is radically very evilly affected. Use the day for replenishing thy stock in trade, and for dealings with bankers, brokers, judges, ecclesiastics and persons of wealth and means.

12—Tuesday. An indifferent day in nearly all respects, the morning and evening being the least favorable parts of the day; make no new beginnings in any ventures, nor seek any favor or advantage from thy superior or from public officials. The passing time is very unfavorable for persons born about the first of March, June, September, or December of past years, and a majority of them are likely to be in the midst of troublesome circumstances or to be physically "under the weather." To all such REGULUS suggests the necessity for unusual care in matters of both health and finance, particular stress being laid upon the necessity for avoidance of troubles with the liver and lungs or the bronchial system. Such persons should act very conservatively in all their transactions, avoiding new ventures and being content with existing circumstances rather than to start into new ventures. Marriageable ladies so born will be wise to avoid the matrimonial contract at this time if they desire peace and happiness in the marriage relation.

13—Wednesday. Conditions continue decidedly baffling and it is better to defer matters of much importance until a more promising time; make no contracts concerning houses or lands nor have any dealings with agriculturists, miners, or contractors; the literary pursuits are less favored than usual during the latter part of this day and mental labor is likely to be troublesome and unsatisfactory; have no dealings with printers or booksellers; the night hours are mischievous and fires and crimes are to be carefully guarded against.

14—Thursday. Keep the temper during the morning hours when also defer all kinds of contract making. The latter half of the day is the best, in which the major undertakings in life are more successfully urged.

15—Friday. A very favorable day after the morning, inviting travel, business activity and enterprise. REGULUS points to this as one of the bright days of the month in which the beginning of new undertakings in general business should be made.

16—Saturday. The forenoon is favorable for geological pursuits, for handling chemicals and dealing with railway officials and persons in public office.

17—Sunday. A day of marked mental activity but the tongue will need a bridle in the forenoon for utterances are likely to be sharp, bitter and not always truthful and quarrels are easily provoked; the balance of the day is excellent for matters appropriate.

18—Monday. This day is mischievous in a financial sense; speculators! beware of temptations; look out for the purse and have no dealings with the very aged.

19—Tuesday. Begin this day with its earliest moments, urging all pursuits concerning books or writings and dealing with all in the literary callings; let literary productions be launched, do important correspondence, travel, make contracts and urge all commercial transactions generally; the time invites the commencement of undertakings of magnitude in the fine arts and dealings in fancy and decorative goods; the day favors courtship and matrimony; give preference to the forenoon and noon hours for the transaction of business with dealers in hardware, cutlery, fire-arms, metals, glassware, brass and iron work, machinery and chemical and electrical materials and apparatus.

20—Wednesday. Having rested during the night hours in which some depressing and disappointing conditions have prevailed, resume thine efforts with the appearance of the sun for thy profit and advantage; seek money accommodations and speculate in the forenoon if thy nativity be now fairly fortunate in this particular; let the early hours be taken for purchasing stock for trade, for financial negotiations and for gaining business credit and reputation; make collections and adjust accounts.

21—Thursday. Be very cautious in the use of the pen on this day; make no contracts or bargains concerned with literary or artistic matters; sign no deeds, engage no servants nor expect much profit or advantage from any of the literary undertakings nor from dealings in wearing apparel, musical or artistic wares or productions.

22—Friday. This day encourages dealings with the laboring classes and promotes advantage from transactions with plumbers, tinners and building contractors.

23—Saturday. The forenoon of this day forbids gain or advantage from dealings in real estate or transactions looking to its improvement. The passing days are peculiarly unfavorable for persons born about the 23rd of March, June, September, or December of past years, and REGULUS particularly charges those claiming those birthdays to exercise more than ordinary care in matters of health and finance; let them particularly avoid liver and bowel troubles and the outbreak of old infirmities; let them give no cause for business ruptures, and, doing the best they can, be content even though prosperity be not so great as usual; ladies born at such times should have care that no trouble comes to the husband or lover through them and will need to exercise caution that marital or betrothal relations do not suffer serious rupture. It is no time for those born as above to make business changes or to start into any new and important undertakings in life. The afternoon is much the best part of the day, encouraging the literary pursuits and fine arts; musical, social and dramatical engagements are favored in the latter half of the day.

24—Sunday. Influences are adverse to best advancement of religious interests and church matters; offensive aggressiveness and contention are likely to mark the pulpit discourse of the day and the tendencies to quarrels and disagreements suggest patience and self-control in very walk in life. As the days advance let all practice caution for avoidance of fires, as the time gives menace of some very destructive fires involving heavy property losses.

25—Monday. A day not specially conducive to progress in any direction, though it is by no means unfavorable for any of the routine or general transactions of life.

26—Tuesday. An unpromising day; discouraging for the purse and embarrassing to the progress of enterprises; be temperate in habit and careful in diet, specially avoiding surfeits. REGULUS repeats his caution to persons born about the 23rd of March, June, September, or December of past years, for misfortunes to such nativities are easy of birth under existing conditions and disorder in business affairs, discord or bereavement in the domestic circle, and low physical conditions if not serious illness are among some of the trials induced under prevailing influences in such lives.

27—Wednesday. Urge business during all of this day; prosecute mathematical and scientific studies; deal with the intellectual classes, book sellers, publishers, printers, judges, and lawyers; attend to matters of account and travel; let the musician and artist busy themselves in their professions and all in the polite callings in life crowd their affairs to the utmost; the evening is very favorable for musical entertainment and social engagements.

28—Thursday. Drive thy business vigorously on this day, especially if concerned with the mechanical pursuits; deal with military men, machinists, surgeons, tanners and electricians; make experiments with chemicals and with electrical apparatus.

29—Friday. Be stirring early and employ every moment for thy betterment, preferences being given, if any, to such engagements as depend upon mental labor and activity; the day is peculiarly favorable for literary matters and for the prosecution of mathematical and scientific studies; the mind is unusually active and ideas clothe themselves readily and tastefully; urge correspondence, make contracts, particularly those affecting legal and educational matters; hire help and push all matters of trade and business.

30—Saturday. Seek no promotion in official station or advancement in business from thine employer; have no dealings with builders, plumbers, excavators, miners, or persons dealing in houses or lands. Let all have care during this and the next day, particularly for avoidance of fires or explosions. Conditions promote heat and electrical phenomena and combustion is easily produced. These suggestions are peculiarly appropriate for persons born about the 21st of February, 22nd of May, 25th of August, or 22nd of November of past years.

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I have discovered a positive cure for all female diseases and the piles. It never fails to cure any of the various diseases peculiar to women, such as leucorrhœa, displacements, ulceration, granulation, etc., or the piles from any cause or in either sex. I will gladly mail a box of this wonderful medicine free to every sufferer. Mrs. C. B. MILLER, Box 106, Kokomo, Ind.

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Full 5 Days' Treatment

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NO C. O. D. OR DEPOSIT SCHEME.

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The Von Mohl Co. has the sole American rights for Prof. Laborde's French preparation of "Calthos," the only remedy known to advanced medical science that will positively cure nervous debility. This remedy has for years been used as a specific in the French and German armies, and since its introduction into the United States has cured many thousands of sufferers, and the remarkable success of the remedy in Europe has been repeated in this country.

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Lost vitality creeps upon men unawares. Do not deceive yourself or remain in ignorance while you are being dragged down by this insidious disease. No matter what the cause may be, whether early abuses, excesses or overwork and business cares, the results are the same—premature loss of strength and memory, emissions, impotency, varicocele and shrunken parts. This specific remedy will cure you at any stage before epilepsy results, with ensuing consumption and insanity. "Calthos" goes directly to the seat of the trouble, no matter of how long standing, and the patient feels the benefit of the first day's treatment. In five days the medicines sent free will make you feel like a new man.

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$16.45 FREIGHT PAID...

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You go there and **EXAMINE IT,** call in any expert to examine it, compare it with machines that others sell at $40.00 to $60.00, and if everyone pronounces it in every way the equal of such machines, the LOWEST PRICE ever attempted for such a High Grade Machine, THE MOST WONDERFUL BARGAIN YOU EVER HEARD OF, pay the freight agent

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THREE MONTHS' FREE TRIAL. You can give this machine three months' trial in your own home, and if at any time within the three months you become dissatisfied with the machine from any cause whatever, YOU CAN RETURN IT TO US AT OUR EXPENSE AND WE WILL IMMEDIATELY RETURN YOUR MONEY.

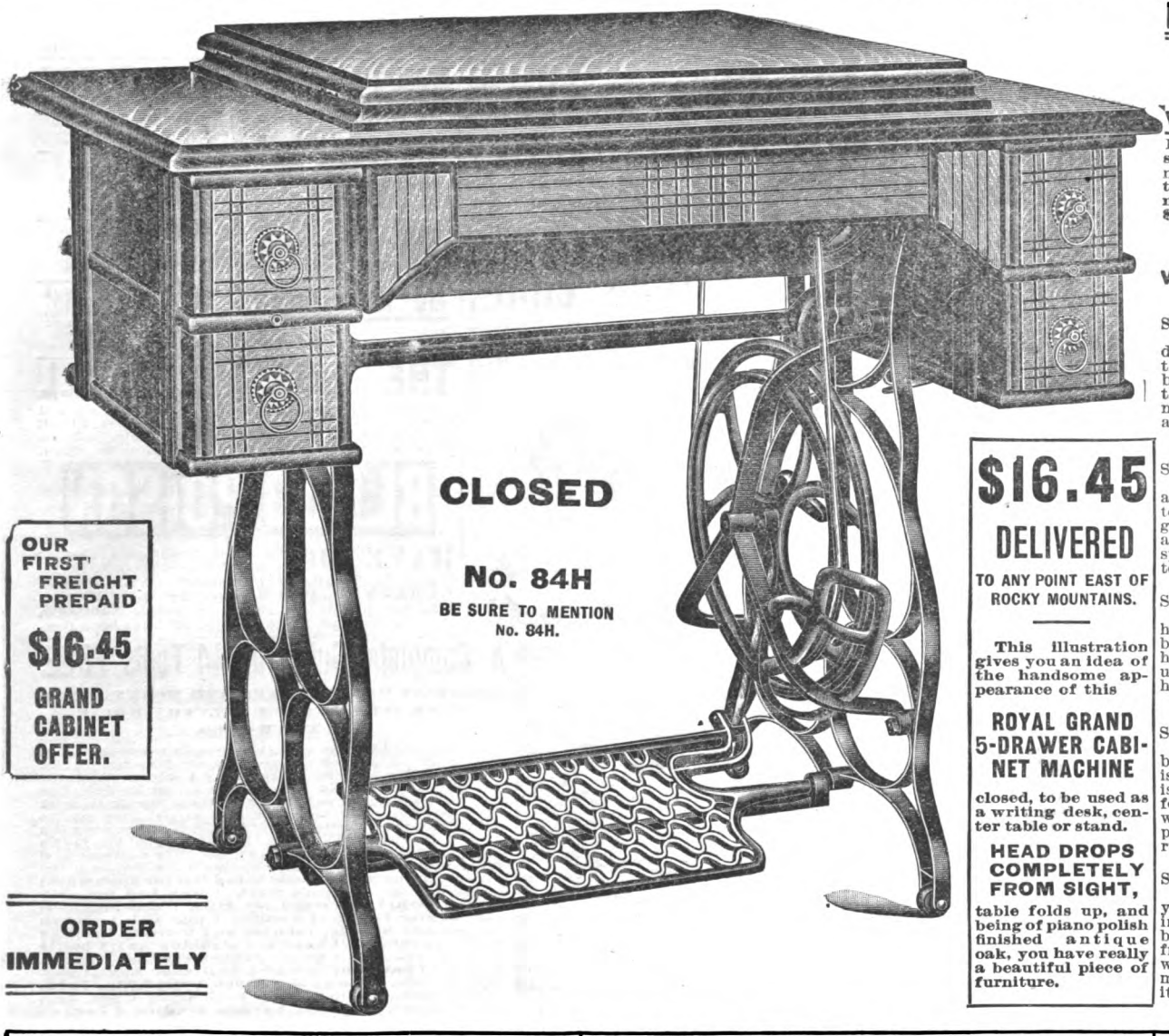
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This illustration gives you an idea of the handsome appearance of this

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HEAD DROPS COMPLETELY FROM SIGHT, table folds up, and being of piano polish finished antique oak, you have really a beautiful piece of furniture.

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JUNE ~ 1900

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COMFORT

THE KEY TO A MILLION AND A QUARTER HOMES

NEW YORK AUGUSTA, MAINE. BOSTON

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PRIZE STORIES.

The following conditions govern the awarding of cash prizes for Nutshell Stories, and the manuscripts of such writers only as have complied with all these requirements will receive consideration.

All the necessary particulars being here clearly set forth, it will be useless for anyone to seek further information or personal favors by addressing the editor, as such letters cannot be answered.

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2. *All contributions must have the number of words they contain plainly noted thereon in addition to the writer's full name and address with nom de plume if desired; must be written on one side of the paper only, enclosed in the same envelope as the letter and remittance for new subscriptions, and addressed to* EDITOR NUTSHELL STORY CLUB *care of* COMFORT, AUGUSTA, MAINE.

3. *All stories must be* strictly original *with the contributors, and must not have appeared in print before. Competitors may write upon any subject, whether based upon fact, fancy or fiction—of adventure, love, war, peace; of city or country life, or of experiences on land or sea—but no story must contain more than* 2,000 *or less than* 1,000 *words.*

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PRIZE WINNERS FOR JUNE.

Max B. Thrasher, First Prize.
Frederick E. Burnham, Second Prize.
Bourdon Wilson, Third Prize.
George Smith, Fourth Prize.
Blanche Trennor Heath, Fifth Prize.

How Lord Bartram Came Into His Title.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY MAX B. THRASHER.

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THE LAST mule had been dragged on board, kicking or balking, with long ears laid back in rage. The anchors had been hoisted, the prow of the boat turned out into the Gulf of Mexico, past Port Bolivar, and the propeller had begun the methodical churning which was not to cease until it had driven the steamer Atlas from Galveston to Cape Town. The Atlas had on board Texas mules, four hundred of them, bought by the British Government for transport service in South Africa.

A sailor came to the open door of the captain's cabin on the upper deck.

"Mr. Scorrow sent me to tell you, sir," the man said, raising his hand to his cap in salute, "as how we have found a stowaway among the fodder."

"What kind of a stowaway?"

"A man sir. A white man."

"Tell Mr. Scorrow to send him up here."

The windows and door of the cabin were open and the captain sat where he could enjoy the breeze which the motion of the boat produced. After the heat of Galveston harbor it was refreshing.

Two sailors came on deck with a man between them. He was a strongly built, long limbed fellow, ragged and dirty. A stubble of beard disfigured his face, but his forehead, where the sweat had washed it clean, was white.

"Well?" said the captain harshly, looking at him. "What have you got to say for yourself?"

"Nothing," said the man sullenly. "I had to get out of the state, and this was the chance which offered."

"Do you know where you are going?"

"I do now. The men below told me. I didn't when I came on board."

When the tramp spoke the captain looked at him curiously. Then he turned to the man. "You may go," he said. "Tell Mr. Scorrow I would like to see him here in about ten minutes." When they were left alone he turned to the man again.

"You are English," he said.

"Yes."

"I came from Sussex myself. Do you want to tell me how you happen to be here?"

"No."

"I can send you back to Galveston by the pilot boat, or I can work you to Cape Town and give you a chance to enlist. Which had you rather I would do?"

The man laughed rather bitterly. "It's a case of between the devil and the deep sea," he said. Then he ran his hand over his stubbly beard. "How long is the voyage?" he asked.

"About a month."

"I'll take Cape Town and the army," he said.

"You'd better. These are times when England needs her men under her own flag."

The first mate was coming across the deck. "Mr. Scorrow," said the captain, "take this man down and keep him at work among the mules until we get to the Cape."

Six weeks later the stowaway, a broad shouldered soldier with a thick blonde beard, was enrolled as Private John Benner, of Her Majesty's forces in South Africa.

* * * * * *

Lord Alfred Bartram of Nene and Stillings was smoking in his tent beside the Tugela river and talking with two of his military companions who had dropped around to see him that evening. One of the men was a viscount and the other was the son of a duke. They and Lord Bartram had gone out from England with that company of Mounted Yeomanry whose roll call of aristocrats had been covertly sneered at by the world, until the cabled lists of dead and wounded sent back from South Africa showed the world once more that the accident of birth made no difference in the way English born men fought and died.

After a little one of the men walked back to his own tent. The man who had remained was Lord Bartram's cousin, and after a little, being alone, the talk of the two men drifted back to home and those who had been left there.

"I have been thinking of Edward a great deal since I have been here," said Lord Bartram. "When we were boys at home we used to plan how we would go to the wars together, when we had grown up."

"Life is a lot different from what we plan, isn't it?" the other said.

"Yes. It is ten years this month since he went away from home, and five since we heard of his death."

The two men smoked in silence for a little while. Something, a stray dog or perhaps a water rat, rustled the grass on the rocks behind the tent.

"It has meant a good deal to you, though, his going," the visitor finally said.

"There never has been a moment since Ned went away," his lordship broke out eagerly, "that I wouldn't gladly have given up the property and the title if I could have had my brother back, an honest man—I mean a man with no doubt on his name; honest I know he was, in intention at least. Whatever could be brought against him was by accident and not by design, I know, so——"

"What!"

Both men sprang to their feet in alarm. A big, yellow bearded soldier had fallen between the flaps of the rear of the tent, flat on the ground between the two men where they had been talking. Before he could rise one of the men in the tent had pinned the fallen man down by putting a knee on his neck, while the other shouted to alarm the guard.

The man was taken away and put in irons.

"A spy," some said.

"Good God, Bartram!" his cousin said, after the excitement was over, "What is the matter? You are as white as a sheet. No wonder, though," he added. "It was enough to startle any one."

"Yes," said the other. "I am all upset."

Late that evening, after he had been left alone, Lord Bartram sent a message to the commanding general to ask permission to see the man who had been captured in the tent. The request was granted.

His lordship found the prisoner in irons, confined in a stone barn which was being used as a calaboose. "I want to see this man alone," he said to the guard.

"Yes sir. All right sir;" said the guard, holding tight in one hand the coin which the visitor had given him, while he brought his other hand to his head in salute.

"Edward!" said the visitor, when he and the prisoner were left alone together. Then, when there was no answer; "Ned!"

The man in irons looked up, at that, and rose to his feet. "Well?" he said gruffly; but there were tears in his eyes.

"What were you listening outside my tent for?"

"How did you know me?" the stranger said, ignoring the question. "Haven't ten years changed me?"

"I knew you by your finger, first; and then I saw your face sideways, against the light."

The man lifted his manacled hands and looked down to where a half of the third finger on the right hand was gone.

"Don't you remember," the other asked, "how my axe slipped when we were making cricket wickets, and I cut that finger off, and then how you told father it was your fault?"

"Edward!" he asked once more. "Tell me what you were behind my tent for. You are not a spy?"

"A spy? Who says that?" The man's eyes flashed. "Never! I have been bad enough; and don't ask me to tell you what I was there for Alf; but not that. I am as honest a soldier to my country as the Queen—God bless her—ever had."

"Thank God," said the other man. A moment later he added, "I will see the general at once and have you taken out of here. You will come to my tent to-night—your tent, in fact it will be, for you are Lord Bartram now, instead of me—and in the morning I will have a public announcement made of your return."

"Not so fast," said the other man with a little laugh in spite of himself. "You still go at things just as you did at the cricket stakes that day you lopped off my finger. I shall stay here to-night, and there will be no announcement to-morrow. You will remain what you have been practically ever since father's death, Lord Bartram."

"Never!" cried the other. "I won't allow it!"

"Easy, there," was the answer. "Do you want to make things worse than they are now? Your older brother has been dead for the last five years—that is, he has been dead so far as the world which knows you is concerned—and the memory of his bad reputation is being forgotten. Suppose I were to come back. There is a price on my head in the States, under my own name, too, for a crime for which extradition is possible.

"I didn't do it. I really didn't, Alf," he hurried to add, "but I could never prove I didn't; and besides—there are other things. The name of the House is all right yet, Alf, thanks to father and to you, and," with a little catch in his voice, "I'd rather leave it so than be Lord Bartram of Nene and Stillings."

And nothing that the younger man could say could change his determination. "You will only bring disgrace on yourself and imprisonment on me, if you persist in letting on who I am," he said. "You may get me out of this scrape, if you want to, and if it could be done, Alf, and you were willing," after a minute's hesitation, "I wish I might be transferred into your company. No one else will know me. And then after the war is over I'll settle down here to ostrich raising or diamond digging or some other reputable occupation like that, and once in a while perhaps you will come out here to hunt big game and see me.

"Just one thing more, Alf, while we're talking about this," he added. "I want to tell you that I heard what you said about me in the tent that night—I was listening—and it made a new man of me. I didn't suppose then there was any one in the world—my old world, anyway—that still trusted me."

And in the end he had his way, for the time being at any rate.

* * * * * *

The Battle of Spion Kop! Who is there who does not know about it? Who is there who has not read how the British charged again and again up that precipitous mountain side, gained the summit, held it for a night and then were swept back again?

A newspaper correspondent in his account of the battle wrote:

"Among those who were wounded was Lord Alfred Bartram. Undoubtedly Lord Bartram would have been killed outright had it not been for the devotion of one of the men of his company who threw himself in front of his lordship at a critical moment, and was killed by a blow which otherwise would have slain the officer. The name of the soldier who was killed could not be learned, but he was a powerfully built man with a full light beard."

But Lord Bartram knew the name of the man who had given his life for his own, and in time he took back to England with him this man's body, and buried it in the family vault of the gray old church at Nene, and had carved on the slab above, "Edward Wesbeach, Lord Bartram of Nene and Stillings. Killed at the Battle of Spion Kop."

THE SHADOW OF LIFE.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY FREDERICK E. BURNHAM.

Copyright, 1900, *by W. H. Gannett, Publisher.*



TITO Fischer and Henry Dustin, two college students, left the university early in June, 18—, with little money at their disposal, a plight in which not a few young men find themselves when the coveted diploma is finally in their hands.

A company was about to start for the Klondike, and having talked the matter over pro and con, nothing better offering itself, Fischer and Dustin joined the prospectors and were shortly enroute for the Upper Yukon.

The details of that journey are of little moment; suffice it to say that they arrived at Forty Mile Creek in due time and at once began work, meeting with indifferent success during the first few weeks, discouraging enough after reading the intoxicating reports of those who had returned with rich finds of the yellow dust.

Rumors were almost daily reaching camp of marvelous deposits located on Sixty Mile Creek, removed from the creek where they had begun mining some fifty miles. Dissatisfied with the amounts panned each day, Fischer and Dustin finally broke camp and started alone for the alleged bonanza fields, carrying their utensils, rifles and supplies sufficient to last two months.

It was evident from the very first of their prospecting in the new fields that the rumors which had reached them were not without foundation, forty dollars to the pan being no unusual find.

The two young men had been in their new quarters about a week when their work was suddenly interrupted and put an end to by a party of Indians, who surprised them one morning, appropriated everything of value in the camp, and marched them back into the mountains, compelling obedience at the muzzle of rifles. Late in the day a halt was made where there was an encampment of natives, and the two captives, ignorant of the cause which led to their removal, were thrust into a wigwam, and bound hand and foot.

During the early evening a continual conversation was carried on without the tent where they were confined; one of the Indians, evidently a medicine man, pointing now and then to the wigwam, making all manner of passes with his hands.

At daybreak an interpreter entered the wigwam and spoke briefly.

"Medicine man say you heap bad man," said he, pointing to Fischer, "sell braves black dirt for gunshoot. You die to-day."

"What do you mean?" demanded Otto, wrathfully, "I haven't been in this part of the country ten days."

"See," said the Indian, pointing to three lines which he had made in the dirt with a stick, "that many moons since, you come here bringing sledge-load of black dirt like this," he continued, displaying a handful of coal dust, "sell all the braves for big bags of sc dust. Braves put black dirt in guns; guns no shoot any more. Great Eagle, big medicine man, say you die when he see you again. Great Eagle and braves hunting; sudden he point down the stream; 'heap bad man,' said he,

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'Sell braves dirt for gun-shoot.' Braves run down bank and bring you to wigwam; council held last night; today you die. Great Eagle heap big medicine man say it, and his word is so."

There was no use to argue the question with redskins; the word of the medicine man counted for more with the Indians than the testimony of a thousand white men. Ready wit, alone, stood between Otto and death.

The interpreter presently took his departure and for a few moments neither of the young men spoke. It was one of those times when words are incapable of expressing the thoughts.

"How would it do to pose as medicine men?" said Fischer at length.

"It would be all right if we could perform something wonderful in their eyes," replied Dustin, "that is the important point, of course."

"There's to be an eclipse of the sun day after to-morrow," said Otto.

"Yes?"

"Suppose we were to foretell the day and hour?"

The idea was a capital one and Dustin jumped at it.

"A medicine man is a big man here?" queried Otto, when the interpreter returned an hour later with food and water.

"Heap big man," grunted the redskin.

"Can Great Eagle tell when the black round cloud goes across the sun?"

The Indian did not reply for a moment, but suddenly his face brightened as though he had recalled a forgotten event.

"No, no, only Great Spirit tell that," said he. "I see it once, many moons ago. Bring heap pack furs that winter; all braves have tobacco, wampum and blankets."

"If I tell when shadow comes again, what would braves do? let us go?"

The Indian grunted, but otherwise made no reply, shortly leaving the wigwam. Later he returned.

"Great Eagle say you no tell that," said he, "you heap bad man to say so. He say if you can, you can go home, but if you tell lies and no do so, you be burnt to death. He say you no try tell, you (pointing to Dustin) can go home when bad white man dead. He say you burnt to death, bad man tell lie, no tell when shadow come."

Fischer and Dustin, both, were deeply interested in astronomy at college and had stood high in their classes. For weeks they had been planning to figure out the exact hour and minute when the eclipse would begin in the section where they were working. The question that now confronted them was the advisability of attempting to astonish the redskins, running the risk of a horrible death through a possible error in calculations.

"Shall we attempt it?" asked Otto in German.

Dustin's response was immediate and hearty.

"I insist; we have a hundred chances of winning and only one of losing."

"But you are sure of freedom as it is, Henry."

"And I will not accept it except you share the same."

"Tell Great Eagle and the braves that we will tell the time when the shadow will pass over the sun," said Otto, turning to the savage, "to-morrow at sunset we will prophesy."

All that night Fischer and Dustin worked over the problem which rightly solved meant life. From the class book which Otto chanced to have with him when pounced upon by the Indians, the necessary figures upon which to base their calculations were obtained, and they worked with grim earnestness throughout the night, comparing notes from time to time. Four times was the problem worked out, and four times the same result was obtained.

2.37' 42" P. M. was the answer, indicating the beginning of the eclipse. The eclipse would become visible so that there could be no mistaking it a few minutes later.

The following day Fischer and Dustin noted a point on the ground where the shadow of a stake fell at two-thirty seven, and marked the place.

At sunset Great Eagle, accompanied by the interpreter came to the wigwam where the two young men were confined, and through the latter, asked Otto to prophesy.

"Lying dog," said the interpreter, "tell when the shadow will cross the sun."

"The sun casts a shadow when its rays fall on tree or stake,' said Otto, "and the child of the forest tells the hour of day by it."

Great Eagle nodded assent when the interpreter had repeated the words.

"The cloud that crosses the sun once in many moons is to pass that way once more on the morrow——"

"You lie!" said the medicine man, through the interpreter.

"When the shadow of this stake is at this point," continued Otto, not noticing the interruption, "then shall it come about, even as I have declared."

The following morning dawned fair and clear and quickly all was commotion about the encampment. Couriers were dispatched to adjacent settlements, or rather communities of savages, and by noon the Indians from the distance began to arrive, and at once preparations were commenced for a great dance which was to take place as soon as the words of the white prophet were proved false, which with one and all of the redskins was a foregone conclusion.

Slowly the minutes passed, and more slowly it seemed, the shadow of the aforesaid stake crept toward the mark which had been set up, indicating the hour when the eclipse would occur.

A few rods distant several redskins were busily engaged collecting brushwood, which they were piling about two spruce trees, distant from one another perhaps fifty feet. Nothing was said, but the two college boys knew what it meant, and they found that the cold sweat was beginning to stand out all over them, and as the moments passed the suspense became almost unbearable.

Great Eagle was rigged out in all his glory, confident that nothing could shake his words, declaring with great vehemence that no one, save the Great Spirit, could foretell such an event, and that swift vengeance would overtake the false prophets.

Five inches, four inches, three inches separated the creeping shadow and the fatal line. Confident and exultant, Great Eagle pointed with scorn to the young men and then at the shadow. As the moments passed, the braves crowded about the spot, grunting and jeering after their manner.

Presently the confusion began to subside, and as the edge of the shadow touched the line no sound was heard, save the whispering of the breeze in the spruce boughs.

Great drops of sweat stood upon the faces of the two young men as they looked upward at the sun. Great Eagle saw that they were shaken and uttered a grunt of satisfaction.

But hold! Was it imagination? Had just a suspicion of a shadow appeared on the edge of the sun?

Great Eagle placed his hand so as to shade his eyes. Other braves were following his example. Otto and Henry, alone, now calm and collected, satisfied that no slip had been made, waited.

Deeper and deeper grew the eclipse as the shadow of the moon passed on its way across the sun.

"Great Eagle foretells many wonderful things," said the medicine man, speaking through the interpreter, "but from him the Great Spirit has withheld the prophecy of the passing of the cloud across the sun. Great Eagle kneels before the white prophets, whom the Great Spirit has talked with. Great Eagle is as a papoose before a brave."

"The white prophets have been wrongfully accused and held as prisoners," continued the Indian, "let every brave do all in his power to repair this wrong done the Great Spirit's prophets. Depart to your wigwams and return with that which will best please the white man."

Scarcely had the Indian ceased speaking when the gathering of braves broke up, long before the eclipse became total.

Immediately were Otto and Henry summoned before the wigwam of the medicine man. The best in the camp was at their disposal. The choicest venison was prepared and corn bread cooked. Nothing was too good for the white prophets.

That night a great dance was held, and Fischer and Dustin were the guests of honor. In spite of the remonstrances of the two young men, the Indians came one by one and brought that which was dear to his heart; one a valuable skin; another a pony; another a string of beads.

The night passed, and with the morning came four Indian runners, drawing a sledge. Fischer and Dustin were bundled aboard and taking the trail over the mountains, they bore them, two drawing the sledge, others bearing the presents which the Indians forced them to accept.

At the stream where they had been surprised a few days previous, the young men recommenced work, and the amount of dust panned showed that there was every reason for believing that large returns would reward their efforts.

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THE ANGEL OF SAN DIABLO.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY BOURDON WILSON.

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A CLUSTER of hovels—miners' shacks and shanties, whiskey dens and gambling hells, jacals and hasheries, and a blacksmith shop, but never a church or spire. A bedlam of noises—oaths and curses, flutter of cards and rattle of chips, popping of corks and clinking of glasses and now and then a pistol shot, but never a prayer. A little army of people—burly Americans and swarthy Mexicans, a few silent Indians, one African, and a Chinaman or two, but never a—woman. That was San Diablo.

Small wonder that the advent of "The Angel," as the dainty little woman was immediately denominated, should have created a furore in the place. She was discovered one morning by "Sheeny" Dave standing forlornly in front of the hut where the daily, or nightly to be exact, stage deposited its occasional passenger; and at first sight she set him to trembling violently, for he had been freely indulging in stimulants of late and thought he had "them" again. But as she did not resolve into either sea-serpent or gila monster, he regained courage, and approaching her, hat in hand, bowed low and gallantly proffered his services.

She did need a little assistance, she answered with a winsome smile; she expected the Reverend John Edwards, with whose family she was to live, to meet her at the stage; but he had failed to come and would the gentleman be so kind as to direct her to his residence?

Dave gasped, then pinched himself to make sure that he was awake, and with another bow, expressed his sorrow that he did not know the gent named—at least not by that name. But if she wished, he would rustle up some of the other boys and see if they knew him. She did wish this, and again bowing low he turned and hurried away. His was startling news and quickly spreading to the uttermost limits of the camp, it soon gathered a crowd of wondering but respectful men in the vicinity of The Angel. But none of these could give her any information concerning the Reverend John Edwards; there was not in the camp such a man as she described; and was she certain that he had told her to come to San Diablo?

"San Diablo!" she exclaimed; "why, of course not. San Pablo; and is not this San Pablo?"

"Not by er d—" Dave checked his tongue in time, and then he explained that San Pablo lay two hundred miles southward; that she must have taken the wrong stage when she changed at Cuencame; and that the driver must have been drunk, as Mexicans usually were when they could raise the price, or he would have discovered her mistake.

Evidently this was discomforting information to The Angel, for she looked wildly around a moment, then covered her face with her hands and burst into tears. Instantly, as one man, the crowd moved toward her, but halted as suddenly, abashed by the thought that such as they could say nothing to assuage the grief of one so refined and lovely as she. Now they drew back a distance to hold a whispered consultation, and that ended Dave again drew near to her.

"'Scuse me, Miss," he said, in his embarassment almost pulling his hat to pieces, "but it's got th' boys all broke up seein' yuh worryin' so, an' I've come ter see ef there ain't somethin' we kin do to stop them purty eyes o' your'n frum leakin'. All you've got ter do is ter stand pat 'til th' stage comes 'long back ter take yur ter San Pablo, an' I reckin we can rustle up er game er some kind ter amuse yuh 'til then."

But she sobbed the more violently; she had had only sufficient money to take her to San Pablo, where she was going to assist Mr. Edwards in his missionary work, she explained; and so—and so she was without means to pay her passage to San Pablo.

Dave retreated precipitately to report her answer to his fellows. "She's down on her luck, boys—plumb busted!" he exclaimed; "an' as gents it's our duty ter stake her, but how in h—l we're goin' ter do it gits next ter me."

"W'y, pass th' hat an' raise er pot, o' course."

"O' course *not!*" returned Dave, scornfully. "Yuh don't sabe her kind, Bill, er yuh wouldn't make such er loco break as that; her kind won't sit in at no game 'less'n they're 'lowed ter ante 'long with th' rest. What we've got ter do, boys," he went on, "is ter give 'er a job an' pay her fer doin' it. Now, all I kin think of that suits her shape is school-teachin', but there's d—d little show ter teach school 'thout kids ter teach, I take it."

"W'y le's go ourselves." Somebody suggested.

"Wouldn't work worth er d—n!" Dave returned, "she'd sabe th' bluff an' call us down before th' draw. But—Oh, I say, boys!" he cried slapping his leg, "she said she was goin' ter do missionaryin' down ter San Pablo, so what's th' matter with givin' her er job o' that kind? We're needin' er Sunday school ter beat the band I take it."

This suggestion met with the hearty approval of the others, and returning to The Angel, Dave laid the proposition before her. For several minutes he spoke earnestly of the camp's need of a missionary; of the boys' eagerness to have her; and he strenuously urged her to remain. She made no immediate answer, but drying her eyes stood revolving the matter in her mind. Why not stay? she asked herself. Mr. Edwards could easily get somebody else to help him, and where else could she be of greater service to the cause than in this heretofore unknown pest-hole of iniquity? She was not disturbed by the reflection that she would be the only woman in the place; she was an apt student of human nature, and one glance at the faces of those rough, lawless men told her that nowhere would she be safer than in their midst; and she ended by deciding to remain.

When Dave communicated her answer to the boys, they gave vent to their delight in a prolonged cheer, and then began devising ways and means looking to her comfort. An unused shanty of two rooms that stood alone on a hillock near the camp was assigned her as a place of residence, and it was quickly stocked with a startling variety of things, every man in camp having contributed something toward its furnishing. The poor little house was the scene of wonderful disorder when The Angel took possession of it, but under the magic touch of her deft hands, the rude interior speedily took on



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a cheery, home-like aspect that drew looks of wonderment and longing from the boys.

This did not escape The Angel's eyes, and divining that it was their homelessness, and not innate viciousness, that impelled them to while away their idle time in the gambling hells, she invited them to spend their evenings with her. At first only a few accepted, but these finding it pleasant far beyond their expectation to be so entertained, and reporting to their fellows, the number of visitors quickly grew until the little sitting-room would be entirely filled before the evening was over. On these occasions she would talk to them of their lives, their work, and of their hopes for the future. Not once did she upbraid them for their wickedness, nor did she "preach" to them; but gently, under guise of pleasant conversation she showed them how abhorrent to her were intemperance, gambling, and the other vices with which they were afflicted. In no other way could she have so powerfully influenced them for their good, for, anxious to please her, they began weaning themselves from the things she disliked, and soon there was a perceptible falling off in the patronage of the gambling tables and saloons. The zenith of her influence was not reached, however, until Lucky Dan, the proprietor of the principal gambling house of the camp was brought nigh unto death by the knife of a murderous Mexican, and she had nursed him back to life and strength. He was now a slave to her wishes, and he immediately inaugurated a crusade against his fraternity that drove the last gambler from the place, and closed a majority of the saloons.

At this juncture The Angel concluded that the time was ripe for better things, and, with the consent of the boys, she applied to the Board of Missions for a clergyman to carry farther the good work she had so well begun. The Board responded promptly, sending the Reverend Charles Warren, a young man of much piety, learning, and sound sense, and under his direction the boys erected a rude adobe building wherein he should direct their lives heavenward. He saw the wisdom of The Angel's methods, and carefully refrained from berating the boys for their wickedness, and from picturing its awful consequences in the life hereafter; instead, he would explain to them in carefully chosen language the wrong of vice and crime, and how it sears the soul and deadens the conscience; next he would paint beautiful word pictures of the life that is free from sin; and then would close with the comforting assurance that through sincere repentance would their souls be washed pure and white.

Not long did he have to wait for results, for the boys, urged on by the tender, persuasive voice of The Angel, and led by Lucky Dan, one by one went forward and professed the deepest penitence for their past misdeeds. And at the end of six months' labor Mr. Warren was able to report that in all Mexico there was not a more flourishing mission than was his.

One Sunday morning the now quiet and orderly camp was thrown into a state of mild excitement by the arrival of a stranger whose clothes were of the regulation clerical pattern; he was met at the stage by Mr. Warren, who welcomed him with every evidence of delight, and then led him away to his place of residence. Later on in the day when the boys gathered in the church, it was to find the stranger seated beside Mr. Warren, and many were their conjectures concerning his presence there. They were not kept long in doubt. Mr. Warren presently rose, his face flushing hotly, and informed his congregation that a little surprise was in store for them. Since his coming to the camp, he went on, he had discovered that The Angel was the noblest woman in the world, and having promptly fallen in love with her, had won her promise to marry him and they were now about to be joined in holy wedlock. Immediately afterward, he and his bride would take the stage for the north, and the stranger, whom he introduced as the Reverend William Cutter, would continue the missionary work in his stead.

The boys were petrified with astonishment, and but few of them heard a word of the farewell sermon that followed; and the marriage, which came immediately afterward, was performed in a silence that was deathlike. At its end they recovered use of their muscles sufficiently to troop forward with listless, shuffling steps and silently hold for a moment the hands of bride and groom; and then they filed solemnly out of the church.

The following Sunday the Reverend William Cutter waited in vain for the gathering of his flock; not a man came, nor ever afterward did one of them darken the door of the church; and at the end of a two weeks' lonely sojourn in the place, Mr. Cutter silently folded his tents and took his departure. He was a man of much worldly wisdom.

HIS WIFE'S RIGHT HAND.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY GEORGE SMITH.

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WHEN Estelle Hebert married John Barstow the townspeople said of him, "What a fool a man is to be caught by a pretty face."

For the newly made husband was forty years of age, sedate and quiet, while his wife was twenty, handsome and vivacious.

Nevertheless, in the passing of five years the gossips found no occasion to recall their comments on the marriage, and say, "I told you so."

Then came the robbery.

Some men, if they had been so rash as to keep a thousand dollars in money in the house, and it had been stolen, would have borne the loss in silence, rather than run the risk of having people say it served him right for such carelessness, but John Barstow was as simple as he was honest. He would not have stolen any other man's money, and until after the deed was done he did not think that any other man would steal his. So he told of the loss.

The town constable made a bold search for the thief, even going to the length of a two days' journey into another state, after a man who was said to look like a tramp whom Mrs. John Peters' niece had said she saw go by her aunt's house the day before the money was stolen. The man proved an easy *alibi*, though, and the constable hurried home, glad to escape a possible suit against himself for defamation of character.

When it was known that Adam Bromley, a handsome, reckless farm hand who had been working for Barstow's nearest neighbor for the last six months had thrown up his job, drawn what little money was due him, and left town the next day, some few people said, "Don't you think that looks suspicious?" but Barstow had said, when he heard them, "What nonsense! Adam was one of the best neighbors we ever had. He was always the man to come here when we changed works, or if they wanted any errand here. No. It couldn't have been Adam, could it, Estelle?"

And his wife had answered, "No."

A year from that time John Barstow was robbed again, or rather, as before, money was stolen from his house. The first time it had been the proceeds from the sale of a lot of timber land; this time it was the money which had just been paid him for his spring's clip of wool.

"I'd always heard it said that lightning never struck twice in the same place," the farmer said ruefully to his neighbors when they upbraided him for his carelessness in letting this second loss be possible. "I thought I'd had my share of ill luck of that kind, and said so, didn't I Estelle, when I brought the money home and put it in the bureau?"

"Yes," said his wife, "you did." She spoke from within a smaller room, where she was fastening a long cloak about her. "I am going over to Martha's," she said when she came out of the room, "to borrow some yeast."

"It's funny," the farmer said, when his wife had gone out, to the neighbor who had come in to smoke with him, "Estelle thinks that nobody's yeast is good for anything but Martha's, and goes a mile to get it."

* * * * * * *

That night the two little children of a farm hand who not long before moved into a log house in a back lot came running home to their mother, crying, because they were frightened.

"It serves you right," their mother said, and snapped their ears. "Hasn't mother told you that you would see bogies if you stayed out too late?"

For the two had gone on and on, that afternoon, gathering wild flowers, until it would have been dark, except that there was a slim moon and the early stars.

"But mother," one child said, "we did see a bogy—a woman in a long dark cloak."

"And a man came over the wall to meet her," the other child said—"a tall man. We could not see their faces, it was so dark, but the woman said, "Take it, and go; and I wish I had never seen you. I hate you."

"Yes," said the child who had spoken first, a girl; "but when he had gone she cried, 'Come back!' and when he had come back she threw her arms around his neck."

"You better stay at home nights, after this," said the mother; and then she snapped their ears again, adding, "Next time the bogies will take you with them."

And because the woman was a stranger in the town, and as yet knew no one to gossip with, she never told any one what the children had said.

* * * * * * *

Norwegian Nils was a traveling clock tinker who kept in repair the clocks and watches of half a state. For twenty-five years he had been walking over the same route, and because he had neither kith nor kin of his own in this country he called the people for whom he worked his kindred. Twice each year he visited his friends, and the family with whom he elected to lodge over night counted itself lucky, for Nils was prized not only for his work but for his wit and wisdom, which last, people who had never seen salt water looked up to because its owner had come from over the sea.

The Norwegian loved John Barstow with the love of an old man for a younger. He had known his father and mother and home when the farmer had been a boy in it. To the farmer's house he came, one Saturday evening not long after the second robbery, and walking in announced his intention of spending Sunday there. He was a man who asked few questions for gossip's sake. "The traveling man who carries news is like the cuckoo, leaving an ill laid egg in a stranger's nest." But like the minister who went about and "heard things," the tinker acquired much information, and so, although in Barstow's house Nils never spoke of the farmer's loss, it is likely that he knew of it.

Saturday night brought rain, cold and dreary.

"I don't care if it is May," said the farmer, Sunday night. "I'm cold and I'm going to have a fire. You don't care, do you, Estelle?"

"No," said his wife, who sat by a window looking out into the wet twilight. "I'm cold, too," and she shivered. "Somebody is walking over my grave," she said, and half laughed at her own foolishness, even while her shoulders shook.

So the farmer brought in a great armful of dry wood; pine for kindlings and rock maple for body stock, and laid a fire in the brick fireplace in the sitting-room, and lighted it. Up to which drew his wife, the tinker, the hired man and hired woman, and a neighbor who had dropped in for an hour.

Last of all came the family cat, a big gray tiger cat, who twisted his supple body between the chairs, stretched himself before the blaze and lay down upon a rug.

"A cat and Whitsun night," said the Norwegian, by and by, when all had been still for a time, each thinking his or her own thoughts.

"In my country," he went on, "there is a story of cats and Whitsun night."

"What was it, tinker?" the hired woman asked.

But the tinker looked in the fire and said nothing, until the farmer said, "What was the the story, Nils? Tell it to us."

Then the traveling man began: "It is told in my country, in Norway, that once there was a wealthy miller whose mill had twice been burned down on Whitsun night. To him there came, the next Whitsun, the mill having been rebuilt during the year, a traveling tailor, offering to keep watch. The tailor chalked a circle on the floor, wrote the Lord's prayer around it, and then standing inside the circle, waited. Just when the clock struck midnight a troop of cats rushed in and hung a great kettle of pitch over the fireplace. Again and again they tried to overturn the pitch into the fire, but every time the tailor frightened them away. And when the leader of the troop stealthily tried to draw the tailor out of his magic circle, he cut off her paw with his sharp knife.

"Then they all flew howling out into the night, and the next morning the miller saw with joy that his mill was standing whole and unharmed. But the miller's wife was cowering under the bedclothes, and when the tailor went to see her she held out to him her left hand, for him to shake, and tried to hide as best she could her right arm's bleeding stump."

"What a horrid story!" said the hired woman, when the tinker had finished. "I wish I hadn't asked you to tell it."

The farmer said nothing, for a little time, and when he did speak it was to ask the neighbor if his spring crops were likely to suffer from the wet.

But the farmer's wife, when the half circle of chairs was pushed back an hour later, and the tinker said goodnight, still kept her right hand hidden beneath her apron.

FARMER DOW'S WHIM.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY BLANCHE TRENNOR HEATH.

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WIDOW Wylie, coming down the road, stopped to admire Farmer Dow's new house on which he was bestowing some last loving touches.

"Looks about ready to move into," she said.

"Jest about," he answered. "Slick as paint an' paper can make it. I calc'late to furnish it next week."

"Do tell!" She surveyed it again curiously. "I s'pose that cubilow's safe? Seems kind o' gimcracky to me."

"Sho! That's 'cause you ain't used to seein' of 'em. That's the only cubilow anywheres round here," he said proudly.

"Yes, guess likely. Well, it's real harnsome, anyhow," as she turned to go. "I do hope Mis' Dow's to home, fur I've got an arrant to her, an' I'm jest tuckered out, I declare! Dreadful warm fur the season, ain't it?"

"'Tis, fur a fact," he assented. "Reg'lar Fourth-o'-July weather."

Some way down the road stood the old house, small and weather-stained, looking like a poor relation of its more pretentious neighbor. But it made a pretty picture under the green leafmist of the great weeping willow swaying gently before it. In the yard brilliant masses of peony and flower-de-luce were laughing up to the sun that blazed from a summer-blue sky. Farmer Dow was right. It was more like July than May.

Comely Widow Wylie, whose over-plumpness made itself felt in such weather, was glad to sit down in the pleasant kitchen. Mrs. Dow dusted off an already spotless chair, and placed it by the open window for her visitor. She herself was a wirey, black-eyed woman, who never seemed to mind heat or cold.

"Here's that basque-pattern I was tellin' you about," said Widow Wylie, when she had recovered her breath. "Ef you'll clear that stand I'll show you jest how it orter go."

For awhile the two women were deep in the mysteries of biases and darts. Then Widow Wylie straightened herself and began taking the pins out of her mouth.

"I see your husbun' over to the new house," she said. "So he's calc'latin' to furnish next week?"

"He c'n suit himself!" The black eyes snapped.

"It's real harnsome," said the other. "Now, why can't ye get reconciled, Mis' Dow, an' humor his whim?"

Mrs. Dow stiffened. "I couldn't live in the house with that cubilow nohow. It's an eyesore to me."

"But you couldn't see it, once you was inside."

"Well, I sh'd alwers know 'twas there. I sh'd jest have it on my mind. Sech a silly-lookin' thing to stick on top, an' when he was

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plannin' the house fur to suit me, too!"

"Dear me," sighed the other woman, "I only wish I'd got somebody to plan fur me, cubilow or no cubilow!"

"Yes, but 'twas diff'runt with your husban'. He alwers wanted jest what you did."

"Well, no, not alwers," thoughtfully. "But when I found we were pullin' contrary ways, I used to kind o' give in, an' then he gen'lly would, too. That's the way with men-folks oftentimes. They're too stiff-necked to speak first, but they're ready t' be obligin' unbeknownst."

Mrs. Dow's lips set ominously. "It's no use a-talkin', Miss Wylie. He c'n make his choice. I'd ruther live alone than with that cubilow—What, you ain't goin' a'ready?" as the visitor, with a glance at the clock, took up her bonnet. "Well, I'm much obleeged fur the basque. I'll baste it up an' bring it over this afternoon."

At dinner neither husband nor wife mentioned the new house. Only when he took up his hat, she said abruptly:

"You're calc'latin' t' furnish next week, 'Zekiel?"

"Yes, I be." He laid his hand on her arm. "Come over, Jerushy, an' let's see jest what we're a-goin' ter need."

"Take off your cubilow, an' I will," she said.

His hand dropped. "That cubilow's there t' stay," he said doggedly, slamming the door as he went out.

Her face darkened. In what a different mood they had planned the new house! She wished now they had been content with the little home where they had lived in peace and prosperity, with their children beside them.

It was after the children had gone away to homes of their own, that Farmer Dow thought of building a better house. "Now they're out in the world," he said to his wife, "their ideas'll grow bigger accordin'. An' I want ter put on a leetle more style ag'inst they come a-visitin' us. I c'n afford as harnsome a house as the next man, I guess! An', Jerushy, I'm goin' t' build t' suit you, fur, arter all, a house concerns women-folks most."

Mrs. Dow was greatly pleased by this deference to her wishes. The plan and site were selected, and work went on for awhile to their mutual satisfaction.

But one evil day Farmer Dow, visiting the remote country-town, saw the cupola on Judge Graham's new residence. Forthwith his mind was made up. There should be a "cubilow" on his house too.

Unfortunately his wife did not see the "cubilow" with his eyes. She opposed it strenuously, claiming the right of veto on the ground that the house had been designed to suit her. On the other hand, he insisted that this did not affect any additions he might see fit to make to please his own fancy. Words ran high, and soon there was a quarrel which grew faster than the house.

Their wills were at a deadlock over this whim of his. The husband said he would as soon tear down the house as remove the "cubilow;" the wife declared that while the "cubilow" stayed she would have nothing to do with the house. What had begun as a proof of affection remained a monument of strife, and the neighborhood wondered how it would all end.

After dinner Mrs. Dow took her sewing and went to pay a visit to Widow Wylie, who lived *with* her sister, Mrs. Hatch. She found them *busy* with their spring "making-over."

"Folks gets sick o' their winter clo'es in sech weather," remarked Mrs. Dow. "An' I hain't got a thing fit to be seen till this is done," holding up the basque. "What trimmin' would you put on it, Mis' Wylie?"

"Do' know's I sh'd put on anything. Ann Mari' Baker has jest got her patterns in, an' she says they ain't wearin' hardly any trimmin'."

"Well, I'm ruther glad," said Mrs. Dow, whose tastes were not of an elaborate kind. "Trimmin's sort o' fussy-lookin', anyhow."

The three women sat sewing and talking when Mr. Hatch came in. His wife glanced at the clock.

"What brings you home so early, Father?"

"We're a-goin' t' have some weather," he answered, "an' pooty quick too. I calc'lated this hot spell'd end that way."

"Is't a thunder-storm, think?" asked Mrs. Dow."

"Yes, an' mebby somethin' worse. Seems ter me like one o' them cyclones they tell about."

Mrs. Dow rose and looked out of the window. "My! ain't it galey—lookin! I better be a-goin' right off."

"Can't ye stay till it's over?" urged Mrs. Hatch. "Them things don't gen'lly last very long."

"No, I guess not. 'Zekiel 'll want his supper."

"You look out for him jest the same then, Mis' Dow, spite o' the cubilow?" said Mr. Hatch jokingly.

"Why, you don't s'pose I'd let him go hungry so long's we was under the same roof?" she retorted. "Ef he's a mind ter move out, that's diff'runt."

"Land! ter hear you talk, Mis' Dow!" expostulated Mrs. Hatch. "O' course you wouldn't let her husbun' live alone by himself, cubilow or no cubilow. How'd you feel ef anything was t' happen ter him?"

To this Mrs. Dow made no reply. Hastily tying on her bonnet, she set off for home, running a race with the gale.

Just as she reached the house the storm broke in a furious gust, before which half of the great willow went down with a crash. Then came the rain and lightning, and after that one incessant blaze and roar.

Mrs. Dow could not help worrying a little as she went about her preparations for supper. And the worry grew with every minute. She was not a timid woman, but this was such a terrible storm! She could not remember another like it. What made 'Zekiel late? Was he safe at "The Corner," or had he been caught somewhere on the road? She thought of Mrs. Hatch's words. How would she feel if anything happened to him?

During a lull she went to the window and looked out, but turned away uneasily at sight of the broken branches and uprooted trees. She went back to the stove, and mechanically looked at the ham and biscuits, her mind full of growing trouble. She was heart-sick and conscience-stricken. What did she care about the cubilow? If only they could be happy and united as before their foolish quarrel! He might have his whim and welcome.

Scarcely knowing what she did, she began to set the table. Supper was ready—'Zekiel's supper. But where was 'Zekiel? She looked at the two plates facing each other, and then, dropping into the chair opposite his, threw her apron over her head, and sobbed aloud.

While she sat rocking herself wretchedly, there was a trampling at the door. Running to open it, she saw two of the neighbors carrying her husband between them.

"Oh, 'Zekiel'" she cried, her mind still absorbed with the one subject, "you may have the cubilow for all me!"——

"Why, Mis' Dow," interrupted Amos Perry, "the cubilow's blowed down. That's what hurt yer husbun'."

Perry explained that on their way home, they had all three taken refuge in the new house. When the storm slackened they started again, but just then a tremendous gust tore off the cupola, striking Dow senseless.

As they laid him on the bed the injured man regained consciousness. He refused to have a doctor called, declaring he could worry through by himself, so the two neighbors went away, believing that the worst was over.

But his wife's anxiety was not so easily allayed. She sat beside him, watching the rugged face on the pillow. It seemed suddenly to look worn and gray. Leaning over him, she gently touched the hand that lay on the coverlet. He opened his eyes and smiled.

"Well, Jerushy," he said, "the Lord's took things into his own hands. You won't be pestered no more with that cubilow."

"Oh, 'Zekiel," she cried, "I don't mind the cubilow one bit now. I'd just as soon you put it up ag'in te-morrer.

"No," he said. "I calc'late we've had a clear showin'. I sha'n't never put it up ag'n. An,' Jerushy," after a pause, "any time *you'd* 'a' give in, *I* would."

"An' any time *you'd* 'a' give in, *I* would, 'Zekiel, ' she answered. He chuckled feebly.

"Well, then, ain't we a pair o' big fools?"

"'Zekiel Dow, don't you be imperdunt!" she rebuked him with a tremulous smile.

His fingers closed around the hand which was stroking his. "An' next week we'll go buy the furnichur' together," he said.

How to Cross the Ocean Cheaply and Comfortably.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



ROBABLY more Americans will go to Europe this summer than ever before in the same length of time. Many of these travelers will be so fortunate, so far as this world's goods are concerned, as not to need to reckon the expenses of the trip very closely. Many others there are, though, who can hope to go across the Atlantic only as a result of strict economy. They have been saving up for this journey for a long time, and each dollar which they can properly save from the expenses of the journey means just so much farther that they can go and just so much longer that they can stay.

I do not think there will be many tourists who will be more unfamiliar with the details of ocean travel than I was the first time I crossed the Atlantic. I did not have very much money to go with, and I wanted to make what I did have go as far as it could. Things which I did might not be pleasant or desirable for other travelers to do. They may serve as hints to be copied or suggest things to be avoided.

This year will probably see special rates in steamer fares, although at the time I write it looks as if the drafting of so many steamers into the South African war service would limit the accommodations for crossing the Atlantic to a number which may cause rates to be kept up. As a general thing regular first cabin passage averages about $100 each way. In some cases it may be as low as $75, and it goes to almost any figure above $100 for special accommodations on the great New York steamers. I have crossed twice on medium sized boats, of one of the oldest lines sailing from Boston, and both times I went in the second cabin. I think if I were to go again, and did not have a great deal more money than I had before, I should still go in the same way.

The term "second cabin" explains itself. Passengers who avail themselves of this cheaper rate do not have the privileges of the first cabin, with its larger and more elaborately furnished dining-saloon, smoking room and other accessories. The second cabin is large enough, though, and fairly comfortable. Its bill of fare is much less elaborate, but the food is good and generously served. Americans who are not used to English ways of living find the fourth meal a novelty. This is a simple supper, served at nine o'clock in the evening.

The greatest disadvantage in going in the second cabin is that all of the staterooms of that class—at least on the line by which I have crossed—contain four berths. If one is going alone this means he must expect to have three strangers as room mates—in a very small room, too—for ten days. On the other hand if a party of four can be made up it is possible, unless passage is taken at the very last day, to secure a stateroom for the party. It does not follow, either, that room mates will be disagreeable, just because they are strangers. A friend and I crossed together. The two young men who were given the berths in our stateroom proved very congenial company.

An average second cabin rate of fare is $35 one way, or $65 for a round trip. The difference in the cost of the ticket between that and first class means a great deal in the way of sight seeing abroad.

Crossing in the second cabin means being restricted from certain parts of the deck reserved for first cabin passengers, but this matters very little. There will be room enough at any rate. There will be plenty of room to sit out on deck if the weather is pleasant, and a clear passage to walk round and round on the main deck for exercise or pleasure. So many times around the deck make a mile. The officers on every steamer will know the number for that particular boat, so it is easy to gauge one's exercise.

The expense of going on the large, fast boats is somewhat more than on the smaller and slower ones. If one has only a short vacation, and wishes to devote every possible moment of time to the Exposition or to sight seeing elsewhere, it may be an object to go on one of the boats which reduce the time of the trip to six days. My own preference is for the slow boats. A ten days' voyage across the Atlantic is the most delightfully restful experience I have ever had. There are many Americans, especially of the class who will care to go to Europe, who need the rest of the vacation quite as much as they need its opportunities for sight seeing.

Take plenty of good warm wraps—old ones, so that you will not be afraid of wrinkling them or of getting them wet with salt water. You will need a thick over coat or a thick shawl in crossing even in midsummer, and if you want to get the real good out of the voyage—long days and evenings of sitting or lying out on deck, where every breath is filling the system with air so fresh and bracing that its like can be found nowhere on land—take along some kind of a steamer rug. This does not mean that you need buy one of the beautiful plaids which you see in the shop windows for $10 or more. A heavy carriage robe will do, an army or camp blanket, or, best of all, a new horse blanket—one of the big square ones with no leather straps on it. This is big and warm, and will be a thing of joy through the whole voyage. You will wrap it around you when you sit in your chair, you will spread it on the deck to lie on, or for a whist party to camp down on, and you will wrap it around you, and possibly some one else—it is quite big enough for two—when you sit out on the deck in the evening.

Some one may say, "I don't want to be bothered with all that stuff when I get across." That is very true; you don't, and you needn't be. The purser of your boat can direct you to some place in nearly every port where, by the payment of a small charge, such articles can be stored against your return voyage. If he cannot, march directly to some pawn shop with them—you will find pawn shops enough in every sea port—and "shove them up the spout." Be sure you do not lose your pawn tickets, and then, when you are ready to return, redeem your wraps. A good airing the first day out will be all the care they need. The commission which you will have to pay the pawnbroker, usury though it will be, will be a small charge compared with the comfort which the wraps will be to you on shipboard.

In writing the above I have gone on the supposition that you will take passage for your return from the same port at which you landed. If not you can almost always arrange to have a package of such nature as your luggage, forwarded to you from one city to another. Quite likely it will come by mail, or, as they say in England, "by parcel post." The English arrangements of this nature are very complete and convenient. I remember once I had a large leather valise full of clothing brought to me in London by a friend, but had to leave the city before he arrived. I left orders to have the valise forwarded to me at a town more than a hundred miles away. I was greatly surprised to receive it by post, with a stamp attached. I forget just what it cost, but remember it was less than a quarter of American money.

Near the beginning of this article I said, in writing of tourists who wish to practice econ-

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 16.)

HERE IS HEALTH FREE



These Four Bottles

Represent a ***New*** system of medical treatment for the ***weak,*** and those suffering from ***wasting*** diseases, or inflammatory conditions of ***nose, throat*** and ***lungs.***

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The third preparation is a medicinal healing ***jelly,*** in a patent collapsible tube. It cures catarrh. It heals all irritation of the nose, throat and mucous membrane. It gives immediate relief. It is also a dainty application for sore lips, sunburn, rough skin, etc.

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BOYS AND GIRLS

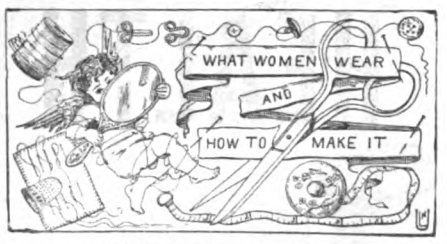
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WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.

ALTHOUGH fashion demands tight dresses it does not imply exuberant rotundities, either in regard to corsage or skirt. The idea is to be harmonious in form, elegant in lines, fine in outline and devoid of exaggeration. Skirts are still very long, especially for evening wear. Skirts of tailor gowns intended for morning wear, are less long and still not sufficiently short to give an awkward appearance. Pleated skirts are worn to a large extent, giving place, however, to those of slim, soft materials, gathered all around the waist. A stylish skirt of soft nun's veiling in dark blue has the back arranged in a number of side pleats extending across the back and hips, leaving the front plain.



Some of the new sleeves are fascinating. Elbow lengths are in great vogue; relegated, however, to the fortunate ones who possess pretty round white arms. The large majority of smart mid-summer frocks have the elbow sleeve, while it is safe to say the remainder show the short sleeve finished with the under sleeve.

As the days go by the tendency to return to the style of Louis XVI. period appears to be on the increase and some very fascinating costumes are the outcome of study of old paintings of that day. A chic gown being worn at Newport is in bright beige cloth, or what is more commonly known now as Khaki cloth. The corslet and bottom of the skirt are in velvet exactly matching in color, ornamented in the richest fashion with flowers embroidered in openwork, showing the white ground through. The front of the corsage opens over a waistcoat of white guipure and is laced with flame red colored cord, the ends of which hang below the waist.

Nothing is daintier than a tunic of lace or any sheer, soft stuff coming out beneath a short bolero of velvet or embroidered satin. In the way of lace, Chantilly holds first rank, its patterns are so fine and delicate. Flowers of Chantilly or other patterns are often encrusted on Duxeuil lace which is itself made up over pink mousseline de soie.

A very Frenchy tailored gown just over, is built of blue cloth, very light in weight, the entire costume brightened by knowing touches of rich gold and white braid, showing especially on the waistcoat displayed below the jaunty bolero, the sleeves of which end at the elbow in bell-shape, and provided with a deep



cuff rolling back, trimmed lavishly with the braid. The fore arm is covered with an undersleeve of white nun's veiling, gathered quaintly into a narrow wrist-band trimmed with braid. The whole effect is most attractive.

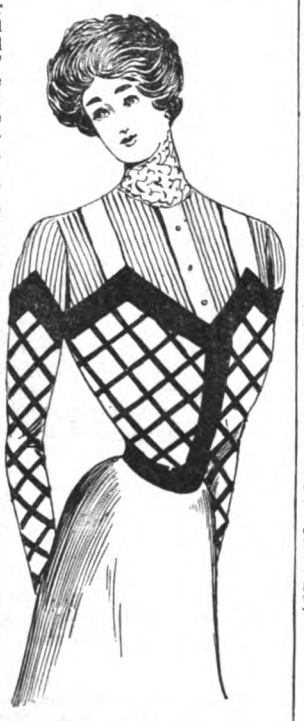
At present there is a decided rage for jewels, both mock and genuine, and in these days one must be very clever to be able to detect the difference. Never have rings been worn in such profusion. It is a mystery how one hand can carry the number of rings one sees worn. As many rings as possible are crowded on every finger of both hands, with an effect of dazzling splendor, if it is somewhat barbaric. Indeed, to such an extent has the fad grown, women are appearing in many public places absolutely gloveless, excepting, of course, in the carriage, when large gloves are worn, loose enough not to interfere with the jewels. One sees long ropes of pearls about the throats of our best dressed women and it is a matter of speculation how many of these beautiful gems are real. Pearls are now worn as commonly as coral, and of course it is only reasonable to suppose the greater number of them are composition, although even they are now so beautifully made as to defy detection without filing the stone, and cost a pretty penny. All this decoration goes to heighten the air of elegance of the up-to-date woman.

An easily adjusted belt is wide at the back and narrow in front, where it is fastened by running narrow ribbon through two metal rings and tying in a bow. Among the newest things in ties are those made from silk bandana handkerchiefs, the handsomest being those with a black center and broad border of white.

One of the features of present correct dressing is the long-waisted appearance at the front of the figure. Women generally are not careful enough in putting on their clothes to push them well down. Good corsets have a large hook which is intended to hold the underclothes in place and if one is careful to push the skirt band down and then bring your outside fancy belt down to follow this line the effect is much improved. With shirt-waists it is a pretty fashion to have a narrow belt of the material hemmed or stitched in rows; they should not be more than an inch and a half wide and should be put on to give a long-waisted effect.

The fancy for wearing black skirts with all manner of bodices is no longer considered the best form; the color of the skirt should harmonize as much as possible with the waist. An excellent plan is to have at least two waists to go with the skirt, holding forth the same colors, one much more dressy than the other, so as to provide for all occasions.

Very charming indeed, are the bodices made of tucked taffeta; the tucks are small as can be possibly made and as close together, the silk cut in bias pieces so that at each hem the tucks meet in points. These waists are tight-fitting, with a French back, and have each seam outlined with a tiny stitched strap or fancy silk braid. A lovely one of corded white taffeta in this style, has a deep yoke collar of tan tinted panne, bordered with a "feather" pattern applique in which gold thread and white silk combine richly. The seams are covered with the narrowest of gold and white silk braid, and there is a soft vest of pale blue panne set off with gold cord and the smallest of small white enamel buttons rimmed in gold; the same buttons fasten the blue velvet cuff at the wrist by means of tiny silk loops at the opposite side.



Dainty collars of embroidered batiste in tan or pure white are worn with tailor gowns most effectively. Etons of shirter's pink cloth are smartly worn with skirts of white serge and shirts of white linen or taffeta. Stitched silk hats take the place of the severe sailor. One and all hats of the least severity of style have their edges softened by a veil draped along the brim, looking as though the wearer had just thrown it back, but in reality securely pinned in place so as not to be blown about. Two veils and even three are worn at the same time; the first, next the skin, of thinnest pink chiffon; and over this one of dotted net, the topmost one of black or brown chiffon, as the case may be.

There is a strong inclination toward the return of the one-time idol, the white cotton petticoat in all its daintiness of lace and embroidery. The sight of a fresh white underskirt is a real relief after the avalanche of color we have been doomed to for so long.

A pretty and useful hat is made of natural tinted straw, in shape very much like a sailor, having a wide band of black velvet ribbon about the crown, and a large bow of the same directly on top, the loops extending each side the width of the brim. It is a hat to be worn with almost any gown and will be found very serviceable.

Smart hats are all showing the high crown, rather large crowns too, and square at the top. A hat of this shape is made of black chiffon closely shirred and having for its sole ornament a huge bow of black velvet having a handsome buckle in the center. A similar hat is trimmed with large choux of black and white tulle.

A dainty bit of millinery is small and tip-tilted over the face, the brim composed of rolls of tulle draped over with fancy straw, very soft and pliable. The crown is made of small pink roses crushed tight together, the finishing touch being given by the odd-looking rosette of black velvet placed directly on top of the crown.

To the girl who is clever at arranging her own dress accessories, the parasols of this season are an incentive for showing her capability. If she can paint on silk, let her buy a parasol in plain silk of a light yellow tint and paint on it large sprays of pink poppies and their foliage. This makes a lovely parasol and one that would cost a great deal to buy. Of course the flowers can be varied to suit the taste of the individual. Roses are lovely but most difficult to paint with success. Another effective parasol can be made from a plain silk covered frame by an application of pieces of lace, placed at regular intervals, or sharp pointed insertion, which



can outline the edge.

A novel and rather pretty finish for a ribbon stock, is to put the ribbon around the neck in the usual way, bring the ends to the front and there fasten them with a gold or gilt harness buckle of the small size. The buckle is fastened to one end of the ribbon, the other end being put through the buckle and fastened with a slide or pinned, just as you would a ribbon belt. This mode of fastening is only pretty for a plain shirt worn with a tailor suit or skirt, not for a fancy silk bodice. The top of the ribbon looks better if finished with a narrow lingerie collar.

Such dainty collars, neckties, and scarfs of all descriptions as are exhibited in this spring's novelties, many of them very expensive, but fortunately an equal number that cost surprisingly little money! The shaped collar with points behind the ears can now be bought in all the different sizes, of silk, satin, or velvet, in tucks or folds, with rows of machine stitching and with lace insertion. These are finished with a little turn-over edge of lace, a bias fold of velvet of some other color than the collar, or with bands of narrow black velvet ribbon, with little bows that are fastened with jeweled buckles. Every silk or satin waist has two or three collars to wear with it, and there are a number of different shapes. In neckties there are the long ties of the polka-dotted velvet, two inches wide, long enough to tie twice around the neck and with ends finished with silk fringe or tassels. Long silk ties have the band that goes around the neck stitched, and the ends left loose, to be tied at the throat with a small bow and long ends. Taffeta ribbon ties, two or three inches wide, are tied in a bow knot at the throat and again in another bow at the bust, with the ends from the second bow left long enough to reach the belt. All these are very attractive and will make this season's waists look prettier than ever.

Lace ties are shaped like lace barbes worn by our grandmothers, or in straight pieces of different widths. They are supposed to go twice around the neck and tie in front with a bow, or may be tied like the chiffon tie, in what is called the La Valliere knot—like a sailor's knot but not pulled up to the throat. These lace ties are not a bad investment for they will cleanse and wash and are a great addition to any waist, but they will soon wear out if they are constantly being tied in a tight bow, and it is really a better plan to make a bow and sew it together, fastening one end over every time it is put on.

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SUMMER TIME

brings warm weather and cool dresses for ladies and young women. This year low neck and short sleeves will be the fashion, also necklaces of bead and pearl. We are ready in advance to furnish our customers and subscribers with our new Exposition Necklace, more popular than the Cyrano chains were ever. We can send one, carefully packed, with a three months' subscription to COMFORT for 12c. Send soon and be in style.
Address, COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

LADIES TO DO PLAIN SEWING AT HOME; $1.50 a day; four months work guaranteed; send stamped addressed envelope for particulars. R. W. HUTTON & Co., Dept. 4, Philadelphia, Pa.

Tailor Made Suit $5.98



Latest Style for Spring and Summer of 1900.

FINE ALL WOOL The suit will be made to measure by skilled tailors from **Evans best all wool ALBERT CLOTH,** famous for its rich bloom and beautiful weave. The Jacket is made in new single breasted style, beautifully lined with fine imported silk, elegantly silk faced and superbly trimmed with pure satin ribbon. The skirt is cut full width, is lined and interlined, has latest style back, nobby welted seams, hangs graceful and stylish. Guaranteed strictly tailor made and worth fully $10.00. **Choice of black and blue colors.**

SEND THIS ADV. to us and we'll send **free a large sample of the cloth and our big catalog containing many other rare bargains in suits** from $6 to $20, and of jackets, capes and skirts all at wholesale prices. We make all grades and styles of ladies' garments and sell at lowest wholesale factory prices. Write today.

LADIES' SUITS FREE We give suits away **free and furnish a suit to wear while you are earning one.** Its a great chance to get a suit free. **Send one 2-cent stamp** to help pay mailing charges for complete outfit with which you can easily earn a suit. Write today.

THE LOUIS R. VEHON CO., 155 W. Jackson St., Chicago.

Please mention COMFORT when you write.

$83.33 Monthly Salary

payable weekly with expenses. Men or Women to represent us in their own state. Your duties to take charge of solicitors and attend to collections. ***NO INVESTMENT REQUIRED.*** This is a **strictly bona-fide salaried proposition.** ***IT INVOLVES NO CANVASSING*** whatever. Expenses will be remitted in advance and salary forwarded directly from headquarters. State experience. Give references. Enclose stamp. **CO-OPERATIVE CO., H, Star Bldg., CHICAGO.**



HAIR SWITCH 65 CENTS.

WE SELL HUMAN HAIR SWITCHES to match any hair at from 65c to $3.25, the equal of switches that retail at $2.00 to $8.00.

OUR OFFER: Cut this ad out and send to us, inclose a good sized sample of the **exact shade** wanted, and cut it out as near the roots as possible, inclose **our special price quoted and 5 cents extra** to pay postage, and **we will make the switch to match your hair exact,** and send to you by mail, postpaid, and if you are not perfectly satisfied, **return it and we will immediately refund your money.**

OUR SPECIAL OFFER PRICE AS FOLLOWS: 2-oz. switch, 20-in. long, long stem, **65c;** short stem, **90c;** 2-oz. 22-in. long, short stem, **$1.25;** 3-oz. 22-in. long, short stem, **$1.50;** 3-oz. 24-in. long, short stem, **$2.25;** 3½-oz. 26-in. long, short stem, **$3.25. WE GUARANTEE OUR WORK** the highest grade on the market. **Order at once and get these special prices. Your money returned if you are not pleased.** Write for Free Catalogue of Hair Goods. Address,

SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO. (Inc.) Chicago, Ill.

(Sears, Roebuck & Co. are thoroughly reliable.—Editor.)

LADIES WANTED to do writing at home. **Good wages.** No canvassing. Send stamped envelope for reply. MISS MODELLE MILLER, New Carlisle, Ind.
Please mention COMFORT when you write.

LADIES I Make Big Wages —AT HOME— and will gladly tell you all about my work. It's very pleasant and will easily pay $18 weekly. This is no deception. I want no money and will gladly send full particulars to all sending 2c. stamp. MRS. A. H. WIGGINS, Box 8, Benton Harbor, Mich.

Sudden Death

If you have heart disease you are in grave danger.



You may die any minute—anywhere. Heart troubles, dangerous as they are, can be instantly recognized by all. No doctor can tell better than you if your heart is out of order. If you have any of the following symptoms, don't waste any time. Get my Heart Tablets at once.

Fluttering, palpitation, or skipping beats (always due to weak or diseased heart); shortness of breath from going upstairs, walking, etc.; tenderness, numbness or pain in left side, arm or under shoulder blade; fainting spells, dizziness, hungry or weak spells; spots before the eyes; sudden starting in sleep, dreaming, nightmare;

Heart Disease

choking sensation in throat; oppressed feeling in chest; cold hands and feet; painful to lie on left side; dropsy; swelling of the feet or ankles (one of the surest signs); neuralgia around the heart; sudden deaths rarely result from other causes.

They will restore you to health and strength as they have hundreds of other men and women.

FREE To prove how absolutely I believe in them, to prove that they will do exactly what I say, I will send a box free to any name and address sent me. One trial will do more to convince you than any amount of talk. It will cost you nothing, and may save your life. Send for a trial box and enclose stamp for postage.

DR. AUSTIN ALBRO, Box 962 AUGUSTA, MAINE.

A Silken Shower from a Necktie Factory.

A Big Lot of Real Silk and Plush Also Stamped Satin

REMNANTS

FOR CRAZY PATCHWORK.



ART in needle work is on the advance. We know the ladies delight in odd pieces of silk and satin—"CRAZY QUILT" making is again VERY POPULAR. We are sure we have a bargain that all ladies will now delight in. Bright, handsome, odd-shaped, and pretty colored goods accumulate very fast at all NECKTIE FACTORIES; the styles were never so bright and pretty as they have been the past season and they are now burdened with remnants of many RICH GOODS. We have thousands of pieces of silk and satin on hand which we are going to give you a big trade on. People at a distance have hard times getting the right assortment to put into sofa-pillows, quilts, etc., and we can help you out now. We are going to dispose of this immense lot RIGHT OFF. Our packages contain from 20 to 168 pieces of the best quality assorted goods, and we want to get a lot introduced into every home; then you can order as you like for your friends, and MAKE MONEY doing our work and helping yourself also. Remember these pieces are carefully trimmed, and especially adapted to all sorts of fancy, art, and needle work. Many ladies sell tidies, fancy pillows, etc., at a great price made from these remnants. Order one sample lot now for only 25c. It would cost many dollars bought at a store. **Grand Offer:** If you order our great assorted lot AT ONCE, we will give you several rich, bright and beautiful **stamped satin pieces;** each piece contains nine square inches and being stamped **by hand** with a graceful design for embroidery, is a great bargain.

Five Skeins Embroidery Silks Free. *In order to work your stamped satin and other pieces we also send absolutely FREE, five skeins of elegant embroidery silk, all different bright colors. This silk is worth nearly the price we ask for the remnants; but we know if you ORDER ONE lot we will sell many in your locality, so make this liberal offer besides giving you a large and elegant piece of* **Plush** *containing 36 square inches.*

BEST WAY. We send ONE of the above complete assorted lots FREE to all who send 25 cents for 6 months' subscription to "COMFORT" the best Home Monthly now published, and in order to get you to advertise "COMFORT" and this big bargain to your friends and neighbors we will send **free** with each package our great book, **With Eight Full-Page Illustrations,** for ornamenting the seams of **Crazy Patchwork,** or for other ornamental work where Fancy Stitches are used it has no equal. It shows how pieces for patchwork may be put together to get the **best effect,** how to cover up seams with fancy stitches, **how to join edges, etc.**

The book illustrates over one hundred and fifty of these besides **directions** for taking **ART EMBROIDERY STITCHES,** comprising the **Outline and Kensington Stitch, Arrasene and Chenille Embroidery, Ribbon Work, Plush or Tufted Stitch, etc. It also tells how to do Kensington Painting.**

Remember we send one big lot (over 100 pieces) Silk Remnants, the assorted stamped satin piece **5 Skeins** *Embroidery silk; 36 square inches plush, and a great 15c. book on embroidery together with 6 months' subscription to "COMFORT" all for only 25 cents. Three lots and one year's subscription, 65 cents; five lots $1.00. Address,*

COMFORT, Silk Dept. B, Augusta, Maine.



EDITOR'S NOTE. The following rules govern the publication of matter in this department.

Contributors must without exception be regular subscribers to Comfort, and every contribution must bear the writer's own name and post-office address in full.

Original letters only, which deal with matters of general interest, will be published. They must be as brief, plain and correct as the writers can make them, and may vary in length from one hundred to four hundred words. Only letters of exceptional merit and interest may reach six hundred and fifty words. Contributors must write on one side of the paper only.

$10 CASH PRIZES $10.

The following cash prizes will be paid monthly:

1st.	For the best original letter	$3.00
2nd.	" " second best original letter	2.50
3rd.	" " third " " "	2.00
4th.	" " fourth " " "	1.50
5th.	" " fifth " " "	1.00

Competitors for these monthly cash prizes must *comply with all the above rules*, and in addition must bring at least one new Cousin into the COMFORT circle; that is, they must send one new subscriber with each letter, together with 50 cents for a yearly subscription.

These cash prizes will be announced monthly in this department.

No premiums will be given for subscriptions sent in under this Prize Offer.

All communications must be addressed to Aunt Minerva, care of COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

CASH PRIZE WINNERS.

Parthenia Alexander,	**$3.00**
Carrie L. Crosby,	**2.50**
Jennie March,	**1.00**

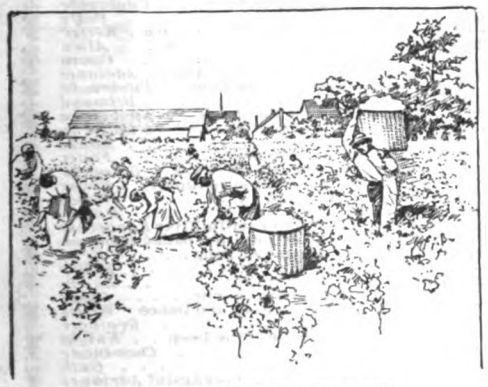
DEAR NIECES AND NEPHEWS:

Again the year has rolled around to the "leafy month of June," and "all the world" is so lovely that Aunt Minerva proposes to be silent this month and allow Mother Nature to do the preaching to her crowd of cousins.

Our first letter takes us to fair Georgia and gives us a peep at a cotton plantation there. Our cousin says:

"What a happy, beautiful scene is a great white cotton field, over which are scattered numbers of negroes merrily singing and picking the fluffy white cotton as it bursts from its bole, like a chestnut from its burr! These bits of black humanity against the white background make a picture worthy the brush of any artist. The growth of cotton and the life of the negro are so closely allied that it is impossible to speak of one without mentioning the other.

"Work for raising cotton begins in February, when you will see the darkies start out shivering in the cold, frosty morning upon the bare backs of their old plantation mules, with the plow gear dangling from each side, riding to the fields to break the ground preparatory to planting. In the next scene they are shouldering their hoes and trudging off through the dewy grass to begin the hoeing; they are thus alternately engaged in plowing and hoeing during the months of May, June and July. These are busy months with the farmer, as it is a constant fight to keep the grass from outgrowing the cotton. No wonder the 'laying by of the crops' is hailed with so much delight. This happy event is usually celebrated by a grand barbecue, which is the beginning of a holiday that lasts until the middle of September, when the cotton begins to open.



PICKING COTTON IN THE SOUTH.

"By the first of October the cotton picking season is in full blast, and it continues frequently until after Christmas. Men, women and children engage in this part of the work, which is quite a social feature and more like a love feast than hard labor, particularly if watermelons are growing between the rows of cotton, as is frequently the case. Well fertilized land will easily produce a bale of cotton to the acre, and a good hand can pick from two to three hundred pounds a day, for which they are paid from thirty to forty cents. The cotton is placed in a sack hanging from the neck of the picker, and at the end of the row is emptied into baskets. At the close of the day the big farm wagon comes for the picked cotton and hauls it from the field to the gin. 'Going for the cotton' and riding back mounted high upon the tightly packed baskets is a gala occasion with the white children of the plantation. No child of the land of cotton can ever forget those rides. The setting sun, the lowing of the returning cattle, the evening song of the mocking bird, the gruesome 'whip-po' of the whippoorwill, the mournful shriek of the peafowl, the piercing screech of the owl, and the dismal croakings of the frogs through the swamps of the lowlands, together with the scent of the muscadine and the mellow fall apple, are melodies and memories that will live always in the hearts of those who have enjoyed life upon a cotton plantation.

"The last act brings us from the hum of machinery and the stifling lint room out on the platform, upon which are stacked the bales of cotton, ready to be packed high upon the wagons and hauled to the depot, where the cotton buyer stands ready to sample and buy the cotton to be shipped—not to the Eastern markets as in 'ye olden time,' but to the near by cotton mills which are rapidly springing up all over the South."

PARTHENIA ALEXANDER, Elberton, Georgia.

Here is an interesting account of a Virginia cave sent us by a cousin from that State.

"While in Fredericksburg visiting places of interest we were informed of a mysterious cave in Stafford county, and a few days later we visited the place.

"Crossing the bridge over the Rappahannock, we proceeded up the left bank of the river a quarter of a mile or more, ascended a very steep hill in the woods and soon reached the entrance of the cave, a rugged aperture, large enough for a person to enter by slightly stooping. The cave is situated on the brink of a precipitous gulch with a stream of clear water rippling through it far below.

"Entering we found ourselves in a cubical chamber about eight feet square, dug with remarkable skill out of solid rock. Some kind of picks were used, the marks of the instruments being plainly visible. Overhead is a circular opening, about five inches in diameter, reaching through to the outer crust of the earth, but partly filled with sod.

"Why, when and by whom this cave was excavated in this obscure place is an unsolved mystery. But from its location we can suppose it to have been made by the Indians, or some prehistoric American race, as a place of concealment from an enemy. Probably it had at first a very small opening, just large enough to admit a person, the opening overhead being for the admittance of air; but the ravages of time, and the frequent attacks of the relic hunter have broken off piece after piece, until the opening is now very large.

"We were told that this cave was first discovered by Capt. John Smith when exploring the Rappahannock, and that on one occasion he used it as a place of retreat from the Indians who sought his life. Years ago the 'roughs' of Fredericksburg resorted to this place on Sundays to practice their gambling. Otherwise, save as the haunts of wild animals, it is unoccupied, and stands a silent monument of past mysteries."

H. HERBERT HALL, Nomini Grove, Va.

I am very sorry to say that I must plead ignorance of the song mentioned in the following letter, but the letter is an interesting one and I give it to the cousins hoping some of them are better informed upon the subject than I.

"A short time ago I had the pleasure of visiting 'The Old Elm Tree' in the Monongahela Valley, so famous in song and story. The tree stands by the roadside in Roberts' Hollow one mile from Elizabeth, Pa. The song was written by Edward Mayhugh who was born near Pomeroy, Ohio, and emigrated to Pennsylvania with his father. The author's grandfather at one time owned a mill which stood across the road but now like the mill in 'Ben Bolt' it has fallen to pieces though the old tree still stands with 'outstretched arms,' where the author's mother with brothers and sisters played when a little girl.



THE OLD ELM TREE.

"Soon after her death he wrote the song which has been going the rounds of the press for years. Professor Bissell of Curry University, Pittsburg, set the words to music and it has been sung by many of the leading singers of the country."

JENNIE MARCH, Elizabeth, Pa.

Here is a second letter from Illinois. Our Illinois cousins are very kind to us.

"The Artesian Belt is the name given to a section of country located in eastern Illinois, which derives its name from its many artesian wells. These wells average in depth from fifty to one hundred and fifty feet. A pipe or casing, usually two inches in diameter, is sunk to the required depth, and through this pipe the water is forced to the surface. A pipe two inches in diameter runs two barrels every minute; but on account of the needless waste a large number of wells have been reduced to one inch streams. This water through all seasons of the year has the same temperature, about fifty-five degrees Fahrenheit, and it contains many medical properties.

"Natural gas is known to exist in this region, as it has often been found while drilling for water, but from some unexplained reason no one has yet tried to utilize it.

"The thriving little city of Potomac is situated in this Belt and has a reputation far and near as a summer and health resort. It contains within its corporate limits one hundred and twenty of these gushing fountains. Here the weary traveler can quench his thirst and find his needed rest. The business man can find recreation and relief from his cares. The angler here finds his heart's desire fulfilled, as many of the miniature lakes, and the Middle Fork river contain vast numbers of the finny tribe; and the student who loves 'to commune with nature in her various forms' can satisfy himself by a visit to the 'Artesian Belt'."

J. F. ELLIOT, Potomac, Ill.

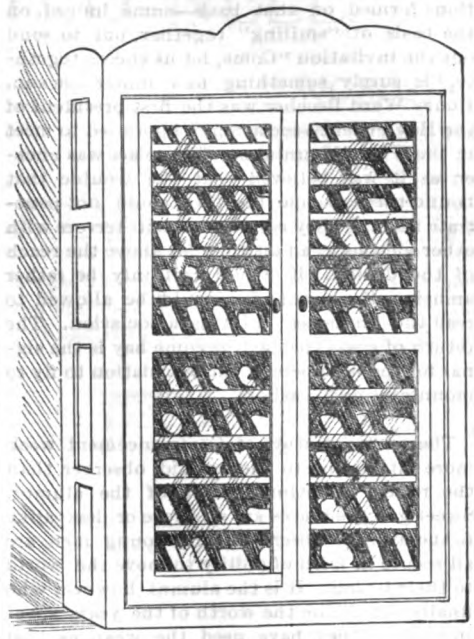
The collection of match safes described in the following letter is certainly unique, to say the least. I do not believe it has its equal in the country.

"DEAR AUNT MINERVA:—I wish you and all the cousins could see my father's collection of match safes. It is quite unique in our part of the country. He began about three years ago;—I don't know what put the idea into his head, but he happened to have a dozen or so on hand and in some way it came to be known among his friends—and he has a large circle—that he was making a collection of match safes and they came pouring in from all directions. He has now over two hundred safes, and some of them have quaint histories. Many have come from different parts of Europe, and one has been around the world twice, in a man's pocket.



MATCH SAFE.

One brought to him from London by a member of the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company, is in the shape of an elephant's head, made of gold, with ivory tusks and jewels for eyes. Among those specially odd in design are shoes, clams, boars, lions, cigars, crackers, quarters of a lemon, trousers with suspenders, champagne corks, pieces of chocolate, heads of Napoleon and General Grant, books, candles,—these made usually of silver, or metal, colored to look exactly like the real thing they are an imitation of, as the lemon, cracker, piece of chocolate, candle, etc. The safe made from the champagne cork *is* the real thing, being dug out from the flat end of the cork and a metal cover fastened on with a spring. Then there is an infinite variety of safes in the regular shape, but all ornamented differently, with heads of people and animals, conventional designs, some that look like a bundle, tied with a string,—all in silver. Then there are onyx and pearl and wooden and leather cases galore. He has had a cabinet made for them which stands seven feet high and measures forty inches across; this contains fifteen narrow, slanting shelves with a slight moulding along the outer edge, to hold the safes in place. The shelves are covered with black velvet which sets



MATCH SAFE CASE.

the cases off well, and they are arranged in a systematic manner. The case has glass doors."

CARRIE L. CROSBY, Waltham, Mass.

And now the time has come for us to adjourn for another month, so with the best of wishes for your summer plans I am, as ever,

Your loving
AUNT MINERVA

HAIR CARE.

A Book Every Woman Should Read.

Tells how Falling Hair, Itching Scalp and Dandruff may be cured. Profusely illustrated with beautiful colored plates and rich half-tone engravings. Mailed absolutely free to all who write for it. To those who have not neglected their hair, the perusal of "Hair Care" will prove of great value in teaching them how to preserve its beauty against the ravages of advancing years, while to those whose hair already bears evidence of neglect and disease it will tell how the trouble may be cured and a new growth of thick, healthy hair secured.

SPECIAL NOTE.—If you have any hair or scalp trouble send a small lock of your hair to the Cranitonic Institute, 526 West Broadway, New York, state in your letter if you have itching scalp, dandruff or falling hair when our physicians will make a microscopical examination of the hair, send you a report on its condition and prescribe curative treatment free of charge. The book, "Hair Care" will be sent you free by mail. When answering this notice please mention COMFORT.

COE'S ECZEMA CURE $1 at druggists. 25c. size of us. CoeChem.Co.,Cleveland.O.

DETECTIVE Shrewd, reliable man wanted in every locality. Act under orders. No experience needed. American Detective Ass'n, Indianapolis, Ind.

PLAYS Dialogues, Speakers, Amusement Books. Catalog free. T. S. DENISON, Publisher, Dept. 8, CHICAGO.

$5.00 A DAY EASY FOR ALL WILLING TO WORK. Gold, Silver, Nickel and Metal Plating. At home or traveling, taking orders, using and selling Prof. Gray's Machines. Plates Watches, Jewelry, Tableware, Bicycles, and all metal goods No experience. Heavy plate. Modern methods. We do plating, manufacture outfits, all sizes. Guaranteed. Only outfits complete, all tools, lathes, materials, etc., ready for work. We teach you the art, furnish secrets and formulas FREE. Write today. Pamphlet, samples, etc., FREE.



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KITCHEN'S "PAT." SPRING STEEL BICYCLE TIRE. With Leather Cover and Rubber Bumpers. Strong, Durable, Light, Pretty. Wheel rides easy outrunns Pneumatic tires, has less resistance against the wind. Bounds like a Rubber Ball.

No more pumping and warranted never to Puncture. A pair of wheels with said tires only weigh 8 pounds. Price $18 per pair.

How to Get a Pair for $5c. and a few hours' work. Return this coupon with $2 in registered letter and I will send you a book of eight coupons, sell the coupons to your friends for 25c. each and get your $2 back. Each friend sends his or her Coupons to me purchasing a book for themselves, and I will have received $18 for the pair of wheels, and then yours will be sent to you per Express, all ready to attach to your bike. For my Reference see rating in The Commercial Reports.

W. W. KITCHEN, Patentee and Mfr., 138 Plymouth Ave. ROCHESTER, N. Y.

Tremendous Bargain IN Crash Skirts.



This up-to-date crash skirt embroidered with white braid in effective design, like illustration, well hemmed and sewed, worth $2.00, for **79c**, delivered to your door **free of charge.** Size up to 30 in. waist and 44 in. length. State length and waist measure and send us

79c

and we will send you this skirt by mail postpaid. The object of this wonderful offer at the low price is to make you acquainted with our house, as we are the cheapest cloak mail order house in the world, and it is to your advantage and benefit to know us.

FREE—Write for our handsome Spring and Summer Catalogue No. 506 of Jackets, Capes, Suits, Waists, etc. A postal card brings it free.

We are perfectly responsible and if you are not thoroughly satisfied with the skirt your money cheerfully refunded.

M. PHILIPSBORN, 138 State St., CHICAGO.

Please mention COMFORT when you write.

MONEY given for selling our toilet soaps, or 150 premiums free. Write today for handsome illustrated Catalog. Great Northern Soap W'k's, 224 Lake St., Oak Park, Ill.

WE PAY $18 A WEEK and EXPENSES to men with rigs to introduce our Poultry Compound. Send stamp. JAVELLE MFG. CO., Dept. 17, Parsons, Kan.

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I tried every known treatment and device without help. Finally I cured myself by Galvanic Electricity. If you are deaf, or growing deaf, or have head-noises, don't waste time and money as I did. Write me and I will gladly send you full information free. Address with stamp. W. J. TINDALL, over Postoffice, COHOES, N. Y.

$3.33 HUNTING CASE



WALTHAM COLD Filled Watches are the best. Read our great bargain: Cut this out and send it to us with your address and we will send you C. O. D. for examination before paying one cent. One beautiful 14K gold plated, double hunting case watch, stem wind and set, Ladies' or Gents' size, fitted with fine jeweled works; a guaranteed timekeeper, equal in appearance to a $50.00 gold filled watch warranted for 20 years. If satisfactory pay express agent $3.33 and charges. Address W. HILL MDSE. CO. 94A STATE ST., CHICAGO.

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How to reduce it Mrs. L. Lanier, Martin, Tenn., writes: "It reduced my weight 21 lbs. in 15 days without any unpleasant effects whatever." Purely vegetable, and harmless as water. Any one can make it at home at little expense. No starving. No sickness. We will mail a box of it and full particulars in a plain sealed package for 4 cents for postage, etc. HALL CHEMICAL CO. Dept. R, St. Louis, Mo.



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This Magnificent Solid Gold-plated Bracelet. Don't send any money—Just name and address. We will send postpaid 10 Large Handsome Stamped Linen Doilies; different designs. Sell them among your friends at 10 cts. each. Send us the $1 and we will send by return mail the magnificent Bracelet. Address AMERICAN JEWELRY CO., Corning, N. Y.



12 PAIRS of STOCKINGS or SOCKS for 10c

JUST THINK OF IT! ONE DOZEN Pairs of LADIES' or CHILDREN'S STOCKINGS or MEN'S SOCKS, assorted as desired in any size, FOR LESS THAN ONE CENT A PAIR, which, if bought in the stores would cost you from 25 cents to 75 cents per pair. For full particulars address, THE PEOPLE'S SUPPLY CO., Dept. 15, Wilkes-Barre, Pa.



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The Great Profit Maker of the Century.

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By a Twist of the Wrist this Little Wonder Solves all Mathematical Problems as Quick as a Wink.

Here is the only reliable never-failing standby. It is the neatest educational novelty of the day. This pencil is a marvel of ingenious mechanism, and a great profit maker for agents.

You will hardly believe that this pencil can figure quicker and more accurately than you can. It will calculate anything from 1x13 to 12x24 in the twinkle of an eye. It gives you 144 combinations and is absolutely correct. It can't make mistakes. It is made of pure Aluminum and attached to a Faber Pencil. Fits any ordinary pencil. It has a good eraser. It protects your pencil point. It is a pencil lengthener and stays in your pocket.

Let **Sunshine's Calculating Pencil** do your figuring and give your head a rest. A sleepy man will get more accurate results with its aid than a wide awake calculator could get without it. Simple and solidly made. Interesting and instructive to everyone. You can't think half as quickly and accurately as this pencil does it for you. Teaches children more in one hour than they learn in a week in any other way. Simple as a clothespin to manipulate, a child can learn to work it in five minutes, it never blunders, is easy to see through. Tell your friends and teachers about this wonderful device, it's the greatest educational novelty out. Interests dull pupils as well as bright ones. Creates enthusiasm in mental calculation and helps in the most difficult subject with which both teacher and pupil have to deal. We send full directions with each pencil so you can get it ready to work as quick and easy as you open a jackknife. You can multiply quicker than an expert, a lightning calculator. Get one to-day.

The Educational Value *of this Arithmetical Pencil is based on the highest Multiplication Table it contains. Every person should know it. Yet many never learn it. They are thus hindered in acquiring quickness and accuracy in mental calculations so necessary to business success. It is especially recommended to young people starting in business life and to those with neglected education. Teachers recommend it to their pupils because the use of the pencil imparts a knowledge of these figures in ⅓ of the time required by the usual methods. Even the Indian office of the U. S. government has recognized its educational merits and recommended that the superintendents of all Indian schools be supplied with samples.*

SPECIAL OFFER. These Calculating Pencils sell for 25c. each, but we are anxious to show you how wonderful they are so will send one free to all who enclose 15c. for a six months' subscription to SUNSHINE, the great monthly, two pencils and a year's subscription for only 25c. Thousands are sold by agents. We send six pencils for 60c., twelve for one dollar, all charges paid by us. One hundred for $7 50, express not paid.

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June. Roses, brides, strawberries, presidential conventions, Paris Exposition, journeys up and down, all that makes "perfect days"—June.

These are the days when Dame Nature holds out her hand to the weary dwellers in the city and whispers "come." One of the most interesting items of a late statistical report was one that referred to the summer boarder in New Hampshire. It would seem that the old Granite State had been set up on edge for the delectation of the summer visitor. The statistics as to the amount of money he brought into the state and the improvements resulting from his presence furnished an interesting commentary on the growth of the vacation habit in America.

A bust of William H. Seward is to be presented to the territory of Alaska and placed in the capitol building at Sitka. It is a fitting tribute to the far-seeing statesmanship of the man who believed that the Pacific was to furnish our open door to a great Eastern trade. He seemed to look upon our future with a prophetic eye. He foresaw the importance to us of establishing trade with the Pacific islands and the Orient. With our canal project well under way that will shorten the Pacific route by thousands of miles, with vast possessions like Hawaii and the Philippines as resting places ere our ships reach China and Japan, with the vast export of the Alaskan gold fields, with all this fulfillment of Seward's visions it is fitting to honor his memory. Alaska was long designated Seward's Folly and the nation's refrigerator, but the diplomatic and financial advisability of the purchase is no longer questioned by even the most captious.

A great New York daily has seen in the two national conventions an opportunity to teach civics in a practical manner. Fifty boys from the High Schools of Greater New York have been selected by means of competitive essays on some topic connected with the nomination and election of the President of the United States. Twenty-five of these lads are to be taken in a special car, under charge of reliable guides, to the Convention Hall at Philadelphia on the nineteenth of June. The remaining twenty-five will be taken to Kansas City on July the fourth. This is a commendable way to interest school boys in the manner of conducting our great nominating conventions. The political machinery that runs the great parties is intricate. It is safe to say that not more than half the voters of the land understand the method of calling and electing nominating conventions. They have been a part of our political affairs since the 30's. Before that time nominations were made by legislature, by popular demand or by small party caucuses, no definite plan being employed. The nominating convention is peculiar to America but the Constitution makes no mention of such a body nor was it intended or dreamed of in the minds of the founders of the nation.

We are said to be the greatest organizers in the world. Visitors from abroad are always impressed and frequently amused at the associations, clubs, societies, and what not that flourish in this home of the free. Every pretext from poetry to potatoes and from philanthropy to frivoling is used to gather people together with a constitution, a president and dues. It remains for the American Hay Fever Association to claim the doubtful honor of being the only association in the world bound together by the common interest in a malady.

We have heard the expression "Come, let us reason together," and we know many associations formed on that basis—some indeed, on the basis of "smiling" together, but to send out the invitation "Come, let us sneeze together," is surely something new under the sun. Henry Ward Beecher was the first president of the Hay Fever Association, which used to meet in the White Mountains. This place was chosen as it was believed that the trouble that bound these people together could not penetrate there. They could discuss its terrors with other victims at an altitude far above the reach of the demon. It would certainly be rather amusing if an outsider could be allowed to read the "minutes" of this association. The return of grass that will become hay is the signal for the members of the association to fly to mountains and seashore.

There is no feature of Commencement week more interesting to the candid observer than the return to Alma Mater of the alumni. Sweet girl graduates are all more or less alike to the average observers—the young men are all secure in faith of ability to move the world to their liking. It is the alumni however who finally determine the worth of the years spent in study. They have used the weapons that education has placed in their hands and years have shown the worth or worthlessness of their preparation. They return to their school to live over again the joys of youth. They listen with pathetic attention or indifference to the orations. They know the wide gulf between theory and fact and as they hear the weighty problems of political and social economy treated as mere playthings for historical flourish they smile in kindly appreciation of the ways of youth. It is like a fleet of weather beaten storm tossed ships anchored near where some ships gay with bunting and glistening with paint are to be launched. The candid observer turns from the untried new to scan the old. What changes the years write on the faces of the alumni. But time writes no wrinkles in the heart and many a father or mother feels the years rolled up like a scroll as they listen to a son or daughter speaking from the very platform where years before they made their own "graduating oration." The June days sing no happier event among their roses than the Commencement Days.

One is struck by the frequency with which men who have attained success preach the gospel of work. The "strenuous life" is a phrase often upon people's lips. It would seem that there was a secret fear that the work of the world would be left undone unless a constant gospel of effort was preached and lived. Work for the sake of the working is a doctrine better fitted to a convict cell than to the serious consideration of a generation of strivers. Work was laid upon man primarily as a curse. He has said "evil be thou my good" and through long ages has trained himself to the point where it has become true that a man's work is the best expression of himself. In every case when it is not, it retains the old original reminder of a lost Eden and is a curse. The constant urging to effort is not necessary in most cases and when the warning is necessary it is generally useless. The great mass of Americans work too much. Many a man who has won a competence through his own efforts is really poorer in all that makes for the real value of life than the lowest salaried clerk in his employ. The capacity for enjoyment, for rest, for the calm quiet of spirit through which we learn to know our own inner nature, has been lost. "The strenuous life" has prolonged its effort until the strained nerves cannot relax. One day a snap comes and then the American malady of "overwork" claims another victim. The doctrine of "work" needs no preaching. The men who have it in them to succeed by work will do so, and any intellectual incentive furnished by such urging from those who have succeeded is unnecessary.

The trouble growing out of the charge that Senator Clark of Montana secured his seat by bribery of the legislature, and of the fact that the legislature of two states, Delaware and Pennsylvania failed to elect United States Senators, has had one logical result. The long demanded change in the method of electing United States Senators is to be brought before the people. The House has by an almost unanimous vote demanded an amendment to the Constitution providing that United States Senators shall be elected by popular vote and not by state legislations. The method of election by the state legislations grew out of the compromise in the Constitution made between the large and small states. To satisfy both in their demands that the state should be recognized as a unit and that the population of the state should also be considered, the legislative body was divided into houses. The upper house was designed to give to each state its full and sovereign authority in government, the small state being as important as its larger sister. To carry out the idea that the upper house represented states, the state legislatures were given the power to elect members of the upper house. We have long since outgrown the State Rights idea shown in this plan. There is now no fear that the states as states will lose their identity although component parts of a great nation. The most dignified of our legislation offices should be in the direct gift of the people themselves. There is no doubt that this amendment will meet popular approval for already the legislations of thirty-three states have signified their approval of it. It is more than thirty years since the Constitution of the United States has been amended. The first ten amendments were made very early in our history and in a lump in order to satisfy a popular demand that individual right should be more definitely guaranteed by the Constitution. The new amendment has been long desired by all students of our political affairs.



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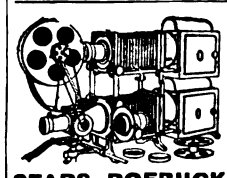
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119	Woodland Whispers Waltzes	Stanley
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27	Ave Maria, From Cavalleria Rusticana	Mascagni
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80	See Those Living Pictures	Guth
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Early Singing in New England.

The old Puritans were a strange lot in some of their habits, and nothing can seem more ludicrous to the present generation than their method of congregational singing. For more than a century after the landing at Plymouth hymns were lined and then sung. Our present generation can hardly imagine the worthy dominie in the pulpit announcing the congregation would join in singing such a psalm and then the scene that would follow.

On the announcement of the hymn the congregation arose and if there were a choir in the usual gallery in the rear of the church, turned with one accord and faced the singers, who generally sang to the notes of a bass viol for harmony. A deacon in the gallery arose with book in hand, and in nasally-twanged drawl read the words of the first line of the announced hymn. Then the viol scraped a note, the singers in the choir hummed in unison, and then choir and congregation sang the line. Thus it was carried on through the whole hymn, the deacon reading each succeeding line to the end, and the choir and people loudly singing in slow measure the words given.

Somewhere about 1725 there began to be a rebellion against this method of "lining psalms," which brought about a warfare famous in its day called the fight between "note and note," which continued unabated and with all the vigor of early Puritanism in every New England settlement. Whether those engaged were singers or not, or even had musical education, mattered little, for all were partisans.

The only book of songs that was used by the earlier Pilgrims was the "Book of Psalms, Englished Both in Prose and Verse," published by Henry Ainsworth at Amsterdam in 1612. The notes were diamond-shaped, which seems to have fitly symbolized angularity of both the music and the poetry; though these rude productions really had a ring and vigor to them, characteristic of everything Puritanical. The general rule was to sing a note of "Old Hundred" to a beating of the pulse, or about a third quicker than in modern time.

Gradually new and improved books crept into use in the colony and the later ones before 1700 are better printed and better collected than the book above referred to. In the earlier days it is doubtful if the stern customs of the Pilgrims allowed women to mingle their sweet voices with the sterner notes of the men in public worship. There is nothing to establish when the present custom of mixed choirs first came in vogue in New England.

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BY EVERETT G. WHEELMAN.

"When Babbie guides her cycle through the leafy lanes of June,
Her winsome grace of form and face puts all the world a-tune;
Her presence there makes fresh and fair the charm of bush and bower,
Her smile imbues with happier hues the heart of every flower."

So sings Nixon Waterman, who has made himself famous as a writer on bicycle topics, and in connection with the L. A. W. bulletin.

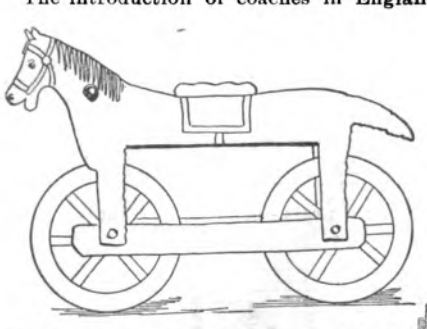
Through the wide publicity which has been given the aims and objects of the League of American Wheelmen during the past year, the bicycle riders in this country are beginning to appreciate what has been done for them by that organization and what it can do for them in the future. Now it is understood that the League has worked for years, unselfishly, in the interests of wheelmen as a class, and that all the rights and privileges now enjoyed are to be credited to it. This knowledge has caused a friendlier feeling for the League and has laid the foundation for securing more support from wheelmen in the future.

On Decoration Day the League of American Wheelmen celebrated its twentieth anniversary. There are quite a number of the founders who are still members of the organization. Doubtless there are many wheelmen who will be astonished to know that the L. A. W. has been in existence so many years and the general public probably has no recollection that cycling was of sufficient importance twenty years ago to warrant an organization.

"When the time arrives, the public will buy bicycles as it buys clothes—on the actual quality of the article and not on the name-plate that it bears, and they will get much better goods for less money," says a dealer. "The public will become educated sooner or later, just as the dealer has. When he buys a wheel for his retail business he asks what tubing, rims, spokes, hubs, and other high-grade materials the wheel he is buying is made of, and he has educated himself up to the high grade maker's parts, as the rider has to the name of high grade tires. When a wheel is built of high grade materials it is bound to be a high grade wheel, regardless of the name-plate."

It has been proved many times over, that the bicycle is no "new thing under the sun." Our illustration shows what was attempted a hundred years ago. Now somebody has unearthed the fact that automobiles are old, too.

The introduction of coaches in England is



credited to Queen Eleanor, who died in 1291. Later testimony, no less direct, credits the first introduction of coaches to Sir Thomas Chamberlayne, English Ambassador to the Court of Charles V. of Spain; and again to the Earl of Rutland, for whom Walter Rippon, Queen Elizabeth's subsequent coachmaker, is recorded to have built the "first coach that ever was seen in England, Anno Domini 1555." In 1829 the Britannic Review said of the steam-carriage invented by Sir Goldworth Gurney:

"This carriage, now perfected in all its parts, has been examined by a large number of enlightened persons. It has been put in movement in their presence. The simplicity of construction, its rapidity, the facility with which it is guided, and above all, the evident security, have all been noted. The result of this experiment has convinced the most incredulous that the new invention will obtain the favor of the public, and that the application of the principle on which the vehicle rests will soon extend to all sorts of carriages, and thus become a universal usage."

The time seems to have come already when Mother Shipton's prophecy "Carriages without horses shall go" is fulfilled, indeed. There are flourishing automobile clubs in England, Paris and in America, and there'll be a whole lot of automobiles whisking about the streets and highways this summer. They'll be as thick as lucky-bugs zigzagging about the surface of a peaceful mill pond in June. Most of them will be guided by drivers who know how, but some of them will not. Because one careless or ignorant driver creates trouble, lots of competent ones will be compelled to go creeping along at a snail's pace.

Notwithstanding the fact that the term "automobile" is said to be a "wretched, mongrel word, a horrible mixture of French and Latin," it appears to be the established name, covering in the widest sense of the word every form of self-moving vehicle, whether on the common road or on the rail, although its application is usually restricted to the former class. "The Automobile Club" of France and, later, of Great Britain, and now, of America, gives that word an authoritative standing that will henceforth carry much weight. Au-to-mo-bile, with the heavy accent on the third syllable.

The best definition of the automobile I have heard yet is "an elephant on doughnuts." But we shall see them everywhere this summer, while the bicycle will be everywhere.

"The Tailor and Cutter" of England, has considered the correct attire for automobile and motor riders, and suggests the following: a double-breasted reefer, cut moderately easy fitting in the body and fastened up to the throat, the neck being finished with a Prussian collar, the ends of which are placed under the top button, thus keeping it in place. Pockets are inserted in the fore part vertically, thus enabling the wearer to use them with greater ease than would be the case with the ordinary breast pocket. The material should be of herring-bone cheviot of some dark color, in order that it shall not readily show dust or oil stains. The sleeves are finished with a tab, which can be fastened so as to bring them quite close to the wrists.

A veteran tourist gives this advice to the beginner: The novice has by no means come to the end of his expenditure when he has acquired his bicycle. There are sundry things which he must procure if he desires to ride in security and comfort. Presuming that he has purchased a good machine (cheap bicycles are false economy) there remains a tool bag, pump holder, lamp, bell, cyclometer and handle bar carrier. The bag should be of large size, with internal straps or loops to prevent tools rattling; the lamp should not be too small and by a good maker, while the cyclometer is more or less a matter of fancy. A waterproof cape should always be carried, and clip attachments to secure same to back forks under the saddle can be obtained. A watch in a watch holder on the handle is a convenient luxury.

Aside from the mechanics which the management and care of a bicycle must teach one, it is almost certain to bring its owner into a closer study of nature in all her forms. As its use develops every part of the body so it also interests every side of human thought. It is said that Darwin, the greatest scientific investigator the world ever saw, in his later years lost all his taste for art, music, poetry, and higher literature, a slave to one idea.

Cycling tends to make men normal in their thinking. A one-sided man cannot ride a wheel with any degree of comfort. He must become rounded and rational.

A point worthy of special note is the use of the wheel by children. Parents should exercise a careful supervision of their children in this matter, in order that the young and rapidly growing child, the bony structure of whose limbs is not fully developed, may not use the wheel to excess. Again, it very often happens that a child is allowed to ride a wheel which is not adapted to his size, and is either too large or too small. Every day we see boys riding wheels which belong to older brothers or sisters, and sitting not upon the saddle but astride the bar in front of the saddle, the toes even then only touching the pedals at intervals and the body swaying this way and that in a most awkward manner. Such a practice is liable to do serious harm to the rider, since the bicycle should be fitted to the rider as much as a shoe or suit of clothes.

It goes without saying that the better form of recreation must be enjoyed out of doors and "close to nature." The bicycle is nature perfected by art, an art that has not subjugated man to the machine, but has made of science a recreative tonic for the joyous betterment of all.



"COMING EVENTS CAST THEIR SHADOWS BEFORE."

To the bicycle belongs the credit of "turning the house inside out." It has called tens of thousands of men, women and children from within walls to open skies and endless highways, "green fields and running brooks," and there taught them wholesome pastimes, such as tennis, golf, boating and the like, all of which are deeply indebted to the bicycle for the increase in the numbers of their devotees.

In a summarizing way it may be said that the best evidence of what the bicycle has done for recreation is made clear by the fact that it found society composed largely of helpless figures watching a few professionals "do a turn" in various forms of "entertainment," and it induced the helpless ones to themselves become participants in all sorts of sports of an athletic nature.

"Where Babbie passes, all the fields are vibrant with delight,
The brooklets sing a song of Spring, the skies are blue and bright.
Across the hills the sunshine spills its flask of golden wine;
A newer birth has wrought the earth in beauty more divine."

EVERY DAY IN THE YEAR

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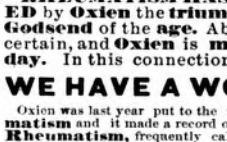


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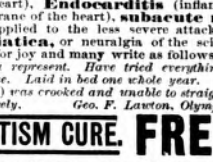
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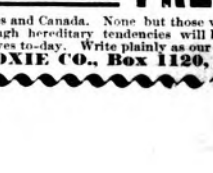
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CONDUCTED BY AUNT SARAH.



SOFT shell crabs are a famous dish with epicures. Possibly a few words regarding crabs will be interesting to some who know little about them except that they are "mighty good eating."

During the first year of her existence she puts off her shell several times. When she feels that she is to lose it, she gets into a hole in the sand, under some seaweed, and in a short time emerges again minus her shell, but covered with a thin fine skin. She is then what is called a soft-shelled crab, and is perfectly delicious.

The price for these crabs is from seventy-five cents to a dollar and a quarter a dozen, according to the season. They can be bought at the markets in the large cities, and are often shipped to the smaller towns. Of course this can be done with little difficulty, as they are shipped alive. They are packed in baskets in seaweed, and so get air, and enough food from the seaweed to keep them in good condition for several days.

To prepare a soft-shelled crab, take it in the hands and remove the seaweed that will cling to the claws. With a sharp vegetable knife raise the skin and remove the sand bag and then the lungs on either side. It is then dead. It isn't a pleasant operation to perform, but it is the only thing to be done and if done quickly is no more painful to the crab than to plunge it into hot water, as is done with lobsters. Prepare all the crabs in this way and lay them on a board; season with salt and pepper, roll in flour and dip in egg and then in crumbs and fry in deep fat. Be very careful to have each claw covered with the flour, egg and crumbs, and then the crab presents a very pretty appearance when nicely browned.

To serve, place in the center of a large platter a cut glass dish, which is to hold the sauce. Around this dish put a border of parsley or water cress and then place the crabs around that. This makes it an easy dish to serve, as everything is separate and can be served neatly. The sauce used is

SAUCE TYROLIENNE.

To three-fourths cup mayonnaise dressing add one-half tablespoon each of chopped capers, parsley and pickle, and two tablespoons tomato puree.

Tomato puree, by the way, is simply canned tomato, which is stewed slowly for a long time until it is quite thick and then strained.

A few words about crumbs.

Take the stale pieces of bread, ends of loaves, etc., and put in the oven. When hard enough to grate, do so, afterwards sifting the crumbs so that they will be uniform in size. Then place in a glass preserve jar and they will keep for weeks. Be careful, however, *not* to put on the cover of the jar or the crumbs will get moist and soon mouldy. Keep the top open, or with a piece of cheese cloth tied over it, to keep out the dust, but still to admit air to the crumbs. If coarse crumbs are desired, (called bread raspings) take the inside of a loaf of stale bread and break it up as fine as possible and put through a sieve.

When anything is to be dipped in crumbs, egg and crumbs again, dilute the egg with water. To one egg add two tablespoons cold water and mix thoroughly. This insures a smooth surface of egg and also makes the egg go about twice as far.

Now that fresh vegetables may be had by all, and as everyone uses salads to a large extent through the summer months, a few new combinations and suggestions for garnishing may be acceptable to the housewife who is always on the alert for something new, in the spring particularly, when appetites flag and it is hard to suit the fancy of the different members of the family. For those who can get the shad roe, the following recipe will be found delicious,—and for those who cannot, cold cooked veal or chicken or lamb, chopped, will do very well as a substitute.

SHAD ROE AND CUCUMBER SALAD.

Boil the roe twenty-five minutes with a slice of onion, a small piece of bay leaf, three cloves and ten peppercorns. Cool and sprinkle with lemon juice or vinegar and cut in small pieces. Slice a cucumber very thin, and then "pink" the edges of each slice, as shown in our illustration. This is done by laying the slice on a board and going around the edges with a three-tined steel fork, which cuts the little slits and so varies the edge of the slice. To serve, pile the roe in the center of the dish, place the slices of cucumber on top, pour over all some French dressing and garnish edge of dish with small lettuce leaves. It presents a better appearance served in this way than when the cucumber is mixed in with the roe.

STUFFED CUCUMBER SALAD.

Pare cucumber and cut lengthwise in halves; remove seeds and let the shell chill in ice water for an hour. Chop together the solid part of a peeled and seeded tomato, a slice of new onion, a stalk of celery and a sprig of parsley; mix with Mayonnaise or boiled dressing and fill the halves of the cucumber, after it has been carefully dried. Serve in lettuce leaves.

It often happens that a small quantity of vegetables are left from dinner; there isn't enough to serve again, and yet nothing must be wasted. In a case of this kind, if one has a cup of string beans left from one dinner, some peas, or beets left from the day before, take these, and mix thoroughly with French dressing; arrange in a pile in the center of a platter, and around the edge place sliced fresh tomatoes, or cucumber. If one has three or four cold boiled potatoes, make a salad of them by adding some chopped onion and mixing with French dressing, and place this around the edge of platter, with a sprig or two of parsley or nasturtium leaves, instead of the tomato or cucumber.

Cold fish of almost any kind makes a nice salad, served usually with French dressing. A little flaked fish well mixed with dressing, served with a border of quartered hard boiled eggs, the whole set off by a row of crisp lettuce leaves, makes an attractive dish both to the eye and the palate, and is about as simple a dish as can be prepared.

The salad dressings most in use are the French dressing and mayonnaise, and, although we have often given recipes for these before, we will give them again, also one for boiled dressing, as there are some who do not care for oil but prefer the melted butter.

FRENCH DRESSING.

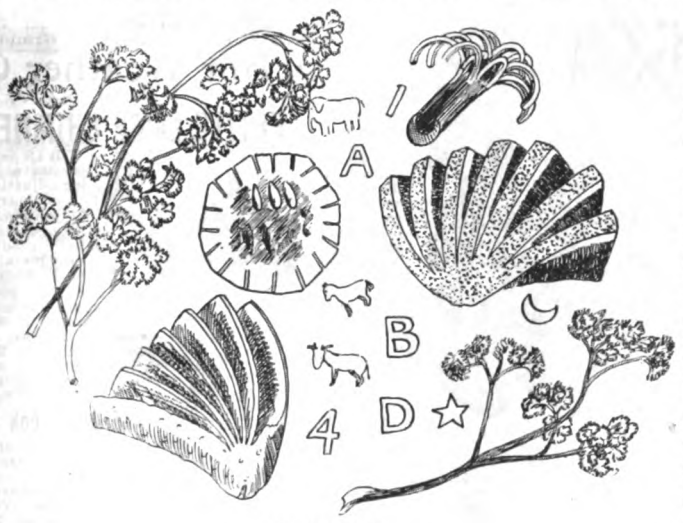
One-half teaspoon salt, one-fourth teaspoon pepper or a little paprica, two to six tablespoons vinegar and six tablespoons oil.

MAYONNAISE DRESSING.

Yolks of two raw eggs; one pint olive oil; two tablespoons vinegar; two tablespoons lemon juice; one-half teaspoon salt; few grains paprica, and, if desired, one teaspoon each of mustard and powdered sugar.

Have the utensils and ingredients thoroughly chilled, the egg perfectly fresh, and there will be no difficulty in making a perfectly smooth dressing. Beat the yolks with a small wooden spoon, add the condiments and stir; then add one teaspoon vinegar, and when well mixed with the other ingredients, add the oil, at first drop by drop. When mixture thickens, the oil may be added faster. If too thick, add a little of the lemon juice, then more oil; then a little vinegar and more oil until all the ingredients are used. It is much easier if two people can make the dressing, one doing the stirring while the other slowly pours in the oil.

Now a word about the best way for keeping lettuce and parsley, in the refrigerator. Make some cheese cloth bags for just this purpose. Wash lettuce, pull apart, and then place in the bag and lay on ice. Parsley may be kept for a week, in this way, by simply sprinkling with fresh cold water once a day. If kept in water it gets heavy and loses its fresh, delicate green, and in a day or two the water has a very unpleasant odor. If kept in the ice box in a bag, and sprinkled every day, it retains its fresh color and odor for at least a week, if freshly picked at first.



GARNISHES.

Our illustration shows sprays of parsley; curled celery, which we have often described; pinked cucumber; fans made from lemon and pickle, also described sometime ago. The letters, figures and animals shown, are the little paste garnishes which are used in clear soups, in place of rice, and may be bought by the package. They are added to the soup ten minutes before it is served, which gives them time to swell a little and become soft, which they do without losing their shape.

A Self-Supporting Woman's Open Letter.

I have had so many letters from friends who heard I had gone into business, asking me to tell them all about it, that I thought it would be best to write you and have you print my answer so that all could see it. One day, in the Christian Courier I saw the advertisement of the Baird Manufacturing Co., 215 Baird Bldg., Pittsburg, Pa., saying they wanted agents for their Flavoring Powders. I first wrote the editor of the paper asking him if they were reliable, and he said they were one of the largest manufacturers in the country. So I wrote them and they started me in business with samples and things. That was two months ago, and I had never done such work before. To-day I am out of debt, living better than I've lived for a long time and I have some money in the bank. I can make from $3.00 to $5.00 a day. I've got my customers so now that I don't have to do any canvassing. They just send and ask for what they want. These flavoring powders are both cheaper and better than the old-style liquid extracts, and there is no trouble to place from one to eight flavors in each house you visit. I make this letter public in the hope that all who must earn their living, and those who want to make extra money, will do as I have done and get employment with this firm. MRS. SUSAN J.



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If you live in Illinois, Indiana, Michigan or Wisconsin, otherwise **SEND ONE DOLLAR,** cut this ad. out and send to us and we will send you this **BIG 425-POUND STEEL RANGE,** by freight, C. O. D., subject to examination. Examine it at your freight depot and if found perfectly satisfactory, the handsomest and best steel range you ever saw, equal to ranges that retail at $50.00 to $70.00, THE GRANDEST BARGAIN YOU EVER SAW OR HEARD OF, pay the railroad agent **OUR SPECIAL OFFER PRICE, $26.50,** (or $25.50 if you send $1.00) and freight charges. Freight averages about $1.25 for 500 miles.

ONE MONTH FREE TRIAL. Give this steel range one month's trial in your home, and if you don't find it the easiest heater, best baker, most economical and altogether satisfactory cook stove or range you ever used, if you find any reason to be dissatisfied, return it AT OUR EXPENSE AND WE WILL RETURN YOUR MONEY.

OUR GUARANTEE. Every steel range is covered by a binding guarantee, by the terms and conditions of which, if any piece or part gives out by reason of defect in material or workmanship, we will replace or repair it free of charge. With care it will last a lifetime. We guarantee the range to reach you in perfect order.

THE ACME STERLING STEEL RANGE is the highest grade steel range made; it embodies every good point of every other high grade range with the defects of none. Made in Chicago by the best steel range maker in America, made from the best material that money can buy and by skilled mechanics, made of heavy Wagner steel plate, 1 to 2 gauges heavier than is used in any other range made; oven plates are wrought steel, Evans' wrought construction throughout, cannot warp or break and is perfectly ventilated. Range is lined throughout with heavy fireproof, non-conducting asbestos, retaining the heat in the stove and making it the BEST, MOST ECONOMICAL AND QUICKEST BAKER MADE. Comes with removable duplex grate, for burning either hard or soft coal or wood. **AT $26.50** we furnish the ACME STERLING STEEL RANGE exactly as illustrated; 6-hole, high warming closet, No. 8 oven, 16x21x14 inches; main top, 45x28½ inches; total height, 57 inches; closet 33½x14 inches. Range comes highly nickel plated and ornamented throughout, big nickel plated bands on stove edges, reservoir back, shelf and closet, heavy nickel doors, oven door bands, shields, handles, mountings, trimmings, etc., finest possible baked black enameling, strongest and heaviest bolt work made, extra large, deep, heavy genuine Standish porcelain lined reservoir. **DON'T PAY YOUR DEALER $50.00** for a range until you have seen **THE BEST RANGE MADE; OUR $26.50 ACME STERLING.** For Cast Iron Ranges and Cook Stoves at $5.85 to $19.00, Heating Stoves at $2.75 to $20.00, write for our free Stove Catalogue. (Sears, Roebuck & Co. are thoroughly reliable.—Ed.)
SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO. (Inc.), CHICAGO.

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1200 Dollars Given Away

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CAN YOU arrange the 18 letters at the left into three names denoting **THREE WELL-KNOWN ADMIRALS** of the **U. S. NAVY** during the **SPANISH WAR?** If you can make out these names you may share in **THE DISTRIBUTION OF 1200 DOLLARS WHICH WE ARE GIVING AWAY** for doing a little work for us. This you can do in less than one hour of your time. This and other liberal offers are made to introduce one of the very best Boston Story Magazines into every house in the United States and Canada. **WE DO NOT WANT ONE CENT OF YOUR MONEY.** When you have made out your answer, write it plainly on a postal card and send it to us, and you will hear from us promptly **BY RETURN MAIL.** It may take considerable study to get the three correct names, **BUT STICK TO IT AND TRY AND GET YOUR SHARE OF THE 1200 DOLLARS. A COPY OF A CELEBRATED DOLLAR BOSTON MAGAZINE WILL BE SENT FREE** to every one answering this advertisement. Send your answer immediately. Address: **THE RIGLEY PUBLISHING COMPANY, 88 and 90 Purchase Street, BOSTON, MASS.**

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PIMPLES and **Blackheads** removed in 4 to 6 days. **Perfectly Harmless.** Never fails. Send 10 cts. **Specific Remedy Co., Dept. K, Cleveland, Ohio.**

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144 PIECE DINNER SET FREE Full size for family use, beautifully decorated & most artistic design. A rare chance. You can get this handsome dinner set and one dozen fine plated tea spoons for selling our Pills. We mean what we say & will give this beautiful dinner set absolutely free if you comply with the extraordinary offer we send to every person taking advantage of this advertisement. To quickly introduce our Vegetable Pills, a sure cure for constipation, indigestion & torpid liver, if you agree to sell only six boxes of Pills at 25 cts. a box write to-day and we send Pills by mail, when sold send us the money & we send you one dozen plated tea spoons together with our offer of a 144 piece dinner set same day money is received. This is a liberal inducement to every lady in the land & all who received the spoons & dinner set for selling our Pills are delighted. **AMERICAN MEDICINE COMPANY, DEPT. G, 32 WEST 13th STREET, NEW YORK CITY.**

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KEEP YOUR HANDS CLEAN.

OUR STRAWBERRY HULLER

hulls **Strawberries, Gooseberries, Black Currants, etc.,** and picks out **Basting Thread and Stitches.** Has place for thumb and forefinger; doesn't slip or fill up. A simple little thing, saving Time (most essential thing to housekeepers), Temper, Stained and Sore Fingers. Will not crush ripest fruit. Takes out soft and green spots, leaving berries clean, neat, and clear cut, making them look fifty per cent better in the dish, and makes you wonder why it was not thought of before. With one you can do the work twice as quickly, and without any of the usual unpleasant features of this work. Every lady who tries this **once** in the berry season will **never** be without it again, or allow her friends to hull berries with **fingers.** One trial only is needed. Housekeepers write, "Could not get along **now** without it." They are brightly nickel-polished and ornamental. Splendid side line. A day's supply goes in your pocket. We deliver all goods so your profit is clear. Send for trial sample, which we will send prepaid for 10 cents, including 3 months' trial subscription to this paper. Send 25c. for one year's subscription and we will send one-half dozen Hullers free; or send 50c. for two years' subscription and we will send one dozen Hullers postpaid. Agents' terms sent on application. **NATIONAL FARMER, Augusta, Maine.**

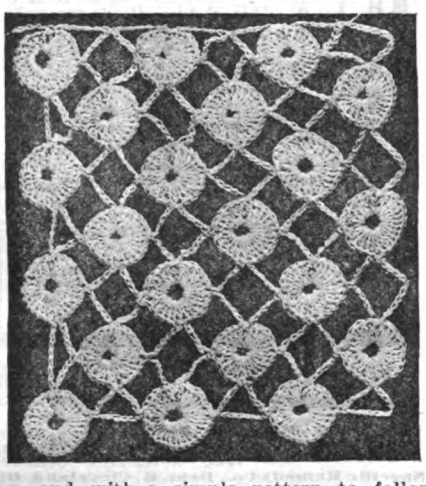


WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



THERE must be a revival of the use of crochet trimming, for we have numberless inquiries for directions for making new designs in edging and insertion. For the benefit of those of our readers who are interested in this line of fancy work, we give some designs which we hope will prove to be new.

Crochet edging is very serviceable for children's underclothes, also for aprons, and is much daintier than the hamburg edge or lace that could be bought for a small amount of money. Of course the thread is all the expense there is to the crochet edge, and the time used in the making of same would not be put to any other use, probably, as this sort of work is usually done when one has visitors who come, with their fancy work, to spend a few hours, or else in the evening when one doesn't care to sit quite idle, but yet wants to do *almost* nothing, and with a simple pattern to follow, crochet work is simple and restful.



Crochet edge in fine, filmy pattern, is also much used in the chamber, for the toilet and dressing table covers, and, if liked, for the ends of pillow slips, though usually women like the hem-stitching only on pillow slips and sheets.

For our first illustration, use No. 30 Coat's thread.

Although this trimming looks as if it would be very hard to make the rings all in good shape, it is very simple making one half of each going across one way and finishing each one going back.

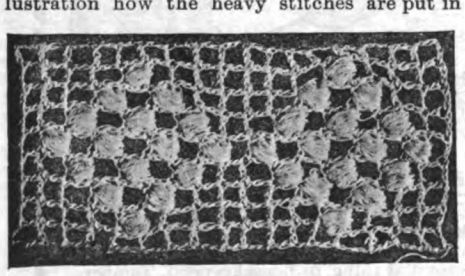
1. * Ch. 16, fasten with sc. back into 6th st; ch. 3, 12 tr. in loop, repeat from * 2 times; ch. 15, fasten back into 5th st, ch. 3; 24 tr. in loop, fasten with sc. in top of 3 ch.and around the connecting ch.forming a complete wheel.

2. * Ch. 11, fasten with sc. in top of last tr. in next wheel; make 12 tr. in loop forming another wheel, repeat from* until you have filled the next 2 wheels; ch. 13.

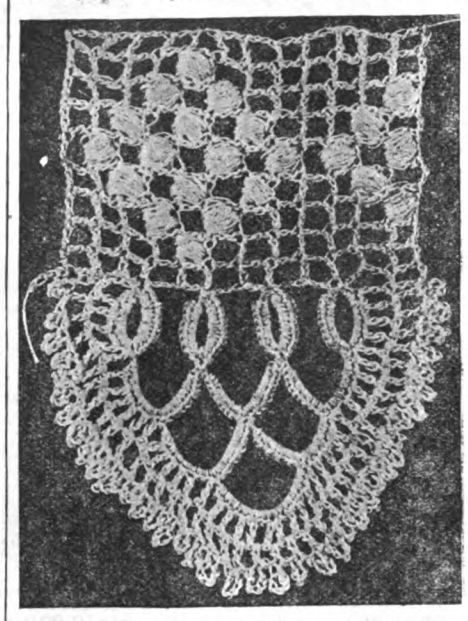
3. Fasten into 6th st. of wheel, ch. 3, 6 tr. in loop fasten to center of 11 ch. in last row; 6 tr. in loop, ch. 5, fasten with sc. to center st. of next wheel.

* Ch. 15, fasten in 6th st., ch. 3, 5 tr. in loop fasten to center of 11 ch., 6 tr. in loop; ch. 5, fasten in center of next wheel, repeat once from *; ch. 11, fasten in top of tr, in half wheel, 12 tr. in loop, ch. 11 repeat from * to last wheel, then fasten the 11 ch. in 13 ch. in last row, and begin next row with 15 ch.

Our next insertion is also made of No. 30 Coat's thread. Make a chain of 32 stitches,one tr. in eighth chain, 2 ch. 1 tr. third stitch of chain, repeat until you have 9 open squares; 5 ch. turn, one tr. in top of last tr. 2 ch. 1 tr. in tr. 2 ch. 1 tr. in tr. 2 ch. 1 tr. in tr. Now you have 4 open squares to make the heavy stitch; make tr. into tr., put thread over hook, with hook draw the thread over the two chain below, draw this loop up as long as the tr.; place the fore finger of right hand on the needle over the threads, repeat drawing these loops until you have done it 8 times keeping the loops up as long as the tr. then draw the thread through all the stitches, then one chain to hold them firm; 1 tr. in tr. below, then 1 tr. 2 ch. until across; 5 ch., turn. You can see by the illustration how the heavy stitches are put in between each block of heavy stitches; have 9 open squares and every time you turn make 5 ch. This pattern must be crocheted closely to look well.



You can see by our third illustration that the top is the same as the insertion and it takes one figure and one half of another to make a scallop. Begin the same as for insertion; make 3 rows, this will have one heavy stitch and 2 light stitches; then instead of 5 ch. make 12 ch. join back tightly to first ch. make 24 dc. on this loop, 2 ch. 1 tr. into first tr; go across this time making 3 of the heavy stitches; 5 ch. turn make across with 4 heavy stitches. Loop of 12 ch. on this 24 dc., 5 ch. across makes 3 heavy stitches, 5 ch. turn make across making 2 heavy stitches; 12 ch. 24 dc. 5 ch. turn make



across making 1 heavy stitch; across making 9 open squares; 12 ch. 24 dc. 5 ch. across making 1 heavy stitch; across making 2 heavy stitches; before going any farther with this thread, don't break it but with another thread of same number, catch with your hook this thread into the middle of the last loop of 24 dc. make 12 ch. join into middle of next loop with a tight stitch 12 ch. into middle of next loop; 12 ch. join into middle of next loop. You cover these loops and make the three loops at the same time. On the first loop make 12 dc. 12 ch. join this ch. back into middle of first scallop you have just finished; cover this with 24 dc. then finish the scallop you left and make 12 more dc.; 12 dc. on next scallop; 12 ch. fasten back to the middle of the second scallop 12 dc. on this chain, 12 ch. fasten back 24 dc. on this; this is the last scallop on bottom, now finish the two sides of scallops left with 12 dc. on each; this brings the thread back just where you started with it; fasten and cut it; now you finish with the first thread making 1 tr. 1 ch. all the way around the scallop, next row 1 tr. 6 ch. catching the thread back into the chain to make a picot, then go across the upper part making 3 heavy stitches; this finishes the pattern.

Make a chain of 45 stitches turn one tr. back in 6 ch. 1 tr. in 3 ch. repeat to end of chain. You now have 15 open squares, this is the width and foundation of the trimming. 1st. row, 5 ch. 1 tr. in top, tr. in last row * 2 ch. tr. repeat until you have 7 open squares 2 tr. in square, 1 tr. in top of tr. 7 more open squares, 5 ch. turn.

2 Row, 6 open squares, 10 tr. 6 open squares.
3 " 5 open squares, 7 tr. 2 ch. 7 tr. 5 open squraes.
4 " 4 open squares, 7 tr. 2 ch. 4 tr. 2 ch. 7 tr. 4 open squares.
5 Row, 3 open squares, 7 tr. 2 ch. 4 tr. 2 ch. 4 tr. 2 ch. 7 tr. 3 open squares.
6 Row 2 open squares, 7 tr. 2 ch. 4 tr. 5 ch. 4 tr. 2 ch. 7 tr. 2 open squares.
7 Row 3 open squares, 7 tr. 2 ch. 4 tr. 2 ch. 4 tr. 2 ch. 7 tr. 3 open squares.
8 Row 4 open squares, 7 tr. 2 ch. 4 tr. 2 ch. 7 tr. 4 open squares.
9 Row 5 open squares, 7 tr. 2 ch. 7 tr. 5 open squares.
10 Row 6 open squares 10 tr. 6 open squares.
11 " 7 open squares 4 tr. 7 open squares.
This finishes the first figure.
12 Row 5 open squares 4 tr. 3 o. s. 4 tr. 5 o. s.
13 " 5 open squares 7 tr. 1 o. s. 7 tr. 5 o. s.
14 " the same as 13th.
15 " 2 o. s. 10 tr. 1 o. s. 4 tr. 1 o. s. 4 tr. 1 o. s. 10 tr. 2 o. s.
16 Row 3 o. s. 9 tr. 1 o. s. 4 tr. 1 o. s. 9 tr. 3 o. s.
17 " 6 o. s. 4 tr. 1 o. s. 4 tr. 6 o. s.
18 " 3 o. s. 10 tr. 1 o. s. 4 tr. 1 o. s. 10 tr. 3 o. s.
19 " 3 o. s. 10 tr. 1 o. s. 4 tr. 1 o. s. 4 tr. 1 o. s. 10 tr. 2 o. s.
20 Row 5 o. s. 7 tr. 1 o. s. 7 tr. 5 o. s.
21 " same as 20th.
22 " 5 o. s, 4 tr. 3 o. s. 4 tr. 5 o. s.

This finishes the second figure; you will see in the last is used o. s. for open square: they are all made with treble and 2 chain. These two figures are used alternately; be sure to keep the trimming the same width, making 5 ch. every time you turn so the squares will be even.

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Our Spring overhauling of stock shows a few hundred cards of **Darning Cotton** on hand, 48 yds. on each card, several shades: tan, black, white, drab, etc. One card, 3c.; four cards, 10c., all mailing charges paid by us. COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

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It will make you comfortable, buoyant, happy—give you ability to work and enjoy life. It is simple, wholly external, adjustable to any figure. Worn with or without corset.



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Every woman should have this Brace.

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DRINK HABIT cured secretly.
Write for booklet on the **Drink Habit** and its **POSITIVE CURE.**

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Club Offer. Send us a club of two yearly subscribers at 25c. each and we will give you two stoves as a premium.
SUNSHINE, Augusta, Maine.

The Victoria Stamping Outfit.

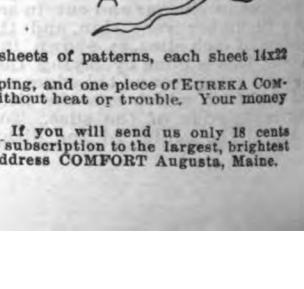
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1 Design Orchid and Leaves for Scarf Corner, 6½x10.
1 Clover Design for Doily.
1 Design for Baby's Bib, Rosebuds and word Baby, 4x4.
1 Design for Cheese Doily, 3½x6.
1 Design for Souvenir Case with Motto, 5½x6.
1 Design for Shoe Bag, 5x10.
1 Design for Shaving Bag with Motto, 6x6.
4 Fruit Designs for Fruit Plate Doilies, 3½x3½.
1 Design for Carving Cloth, 11½x15½.
1 Design for Tumbler Doily, 4x4.
1 Pretty Corner Design for Tea-cloth, Jewel Work, 9x9.
1 Design for Table Doily, 8x8.
1 Design for Water Bottle Doily, 6x6.
4 Designs for Butter Plate Doilies, 3½x3½.
1 Cut Work Doily Design, 5x5.
1 Very Pretty Design for Corner, Battenberg Work, 7x7.
1 Design for Border with Corner, 5x16.
1 Floral Corner Geranium, 6½x6½.
1 Design Water Lily for Doily.
1 Floral Wreath for Monogram or Handkerchief Case, 5x5.
1 Design for Tray Cloth, 7x15.
1 Design for Centerpiece, Maidenhair Ferns, 9½x9½.
1 Rosebud Doily, 7½x7½.
1 Alphabet for Towels or Table Linen, 1½ inches high.
1 Design Centerpiece, Pansies, 10x10.
1 Pansy Doily, 6½x6½.
1 Alphabet for Handkerchiefs or Fine Linen, 1 inch high.
1 Border for Flannel Work, 3½ inches wide, and 29 other designs for embroidery of every description too numerous to mention here.



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TALKS WITH GIRLS.

CONDUCTED BY
COUSIN MARION.

With a June greeting, my dears, and a cluster of rare days to give to each of you as a welcome in the first month of summer, let us sit down together under the roses and talk over our letters of mutual interest.

The first is from Ethelyn, Rolla Mo., and she asks for Cousin Marion's address. For her benefit, as well as others, let me say it is "In care of COMFORT" but Cousin Marion cannot answer personal letters unless upon some urgent matter that cannot be otherwise answered. This will explain why a good many personal letters from the cousins have never been answered.

J. F. T., Griffin, Mo.—We cannot give the address.

B. Sun, Hallock, Mo.—The lady does not always give the man an engagement ring, but it is often done, and is quite appropriate. Of course, it is nothing so elaborate as the one she receives from him.

Ignorance, Fairburn, Ga.—Minutes of a Sunday School should be written as minutes of any meeting, though they would necessarily be briefer, as the proceedings are not those of ordinary organized meetings. You will have to get details from some one on the spot. (2) "Not at all," or "It is not necessary" make very good replies to the usual "I beg your pardon." Use your own judgment.

Lygia, Neenah, Wis.—A man who says he loves a girl and yet will not call on her because he does not like the lady she is visiting, is a very sorry sort of lover, and you ought to drop him quick and hard.

Sunflower, Albert, Kans.—Merely bow your acknowledgment to the thanks of a man who has done you a favor if you haven't any words handy. There is no rule for this sort of thing, and "woman's wit" should tell you the right thing to say at the right time. (2) Exercise, sunshine and careful dieting are the best cure for oily skins and their attendant evils.

Marguerite, Springfield, Ills.—You did quite right in not inviting your escort in after 10.30 P. M. (2) It is quite correct for the man to ask if he may call. (3) The young man is just a little "fresh" possibly, but he did not exceed the limit in asking you, in your place of business, if he might go with you to the entertainment.

Meta, Portland, Ore.—There is no rule as to who begins conversation after an introduction. (2) Why should a young lady hold her "beau's hat *during* church?" Is she afraid some good deacon *will* steal it? (3) It is very common, very vulgar, almost disreputable, to bow to a man on the street whom you do not know. (4) What kind of cards do you mean?

Glory, New Haven, Conn.—Don't remember anything about your other letter. (2) A man has no right to pay your car fare when he happens to meet you in a car, but if he insists, you will have to submit. Car fare etiquette is rather vague as yet. (3) Accept the invitation to dinner if you want to go with the man. (4) Don't stop to talk with a man on the street, but ask him to walk along with you. If he is a gentleman he can't refuse. (5) I am surprised to learn that you know so little about kissing the young men. (6) Do not the best class of New Haven girls flirt with college boys? If they do, then you may.

D. C., Lacona, N. Y.—I cannot give you the addresses of the cousins.

Ernestine, Meeker, Minn.—Have nothing to do with matrimonial advertisements. (2) By all means accept the young man who is making love to another girl if you want to be unhappy ever after.

May, Vinton, La.—You had better let somebody fix your hair who knows how to do it right. Bay rum is not hurtful to the skin. It smarts a little, but that is all.

Dish Washer, Cascade, Ia.—The best thing a fifteen year old can do is to think about something more improving to her mind, her manners and her spelling, than "beaus" are.

Virgie, Higginsport, O.—Hope you will have a lovely birthday and a whole lot more of them. It's nice to be born in June, isn't it?

Rose Bud, Ponca, Neb.—Of course, don't notice the strange man who speaks to you. (2) Don't know anything about winks, except that they are disreputable. (3) "Good night" is usually the best thing to say at the gate when a "fellow" takes you home. (4) Two young ladies may go to a dance at a hall, unaccompanied except by a chaperone. Dance only with men you know.

Rose Leaf, Bellville, Texas.—There is nothing for you to do with the young man who made love to you and married another girl, except to smile and show him you are glad you are not his wife.

A. L. A., Mt. Vernon, Texas—A napkin may be put beside a plate or under it, or in front of it, or fancifully folded in a glass before. (2) You seem to be a very warm and true-hearted girl, of good principles, good sense and good will. Under the circumstances I think you could put the other man out of your life, and in your devotion to the man who wants to marry you, find that after all life was well worth the living. Try it and see if I am not right.

Myrtle, Rosewell, Ida.—Write to Mr. J. Litt, Opera House, St. Paul, Minn., for the information you seek.

Generosity, Ben Hur, Cal.—It may be right enough, but it is not expedient for a woman of thirty to marry a boy of nineteen. Your other questions indicate plainly that you should wait at least five years, and then you will have learned their answers by experience.

Blue, Goliad, Texas.—Tell the man you can not marry him, if you do not love him. (2) You may write to one man while accepting the general attentions of others.

Scared Rabbit, Augusta, Ga.—There's nothing on earth the matter except a silly notion you have taken. Throw it aside and have a good time with your young friends, boys and girls. The more you think about it the worse it will become, so forget it.

Dark Eyes, Kalispel, Mon.—You can only learn where manuscript may be sold by sending it to editors. (2) There is no recipe for rosy cheeks. Consult your family physician.

Mattie, Norton, Kan.—School girls should not be writing to the young men. Nor should sixteen-year-old girls be receiving presents from them.

Amy, Farm Ridge, Ills.—You have the right to the first dance with your escort, but you should relinquish your right to the young lady who is your guest. (2) The lady should be helped out of the rig before the horse is tied. (2) Yes, it is proper to ask the young man to call.

Blue Eyes, High Point, N. C.—Settle it as you will between yourselves, but do not take the man you do not love. Return him his presents, of course.

Estelle, Cheyenne, Wyo.—Put it all out of your mind, I won't say your heart—firmly and irrevocably. It may be very hard, but it is your only salvation, and his. If he is as honest as you are, and as good, he will do as you do, and your combined strength will conquer in the end.

Golden, Oakland, Cal.—Ease and grace of expression is a born faculty, and cannot be acquired. Difficulties may be conquered to some extent by systematic training. (2) Your vocabulary may be enlarged by reading, and by carefully looking up the derivation and meaning of all words you do not know. It is a good thing to read, say a page of a standard author, and then rewrite it from memory, noting the difference in the words used by him and by yourself. Ask the principal of your public schools what is the best book on composition.

Miss Jane, Mico, Miss.—Of course, ask your beau to go walking when the others go. Why not? (2) It is not right for a girl to see a man, at any place, to whom her parents object.

I will say to J. H. C., who is not a cousin, that no man has a right to take his hat off to a lady on the street or elsewhere unless she has bowed or spoken to him. A man who does so should be chased out of town.

Now, dears, I have answered all your questions, and I am glad to notice that you do not ask so many at once as you did. May the first month of summer be all roses to you, and may we meet again in July. By by.

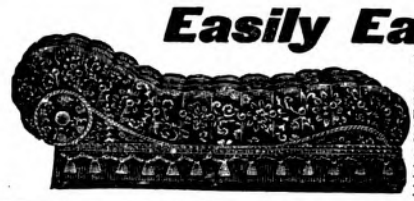
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You can earn this splendid Couch, 76x28 in., extra large, upholstered in three colored figured velours, tapestry or corduroy, best steel springs, deeply tufted, very heavy fringe, worth $13 in any retail store, by selling only $13 worth of our High Grade Toilet Soaps or Perfumes among your friends and neighbors at 25c per box or bottle. **We trust you for the Soap and Perfume.** Our handsome illustrated Catalogue showing 150 other valuable premiums, including Bicycles, Watches, Cameras, Guitars, Rockers, Silverware, Tea Sets, etc. Sent Free

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A BIG OFFER **50c. MADE IN A MINUTE!** If you will hang up in the P. O., or some public place, the two show bills that we send, we will give you a 50c. cert., and send it in advance with samples and bills. This will trouble you about one minute, and then if you want to work on salary at **$50** or **$100** per month, let us know. **We pay in advance.** GIANT OXIE CO., 125 Willow St., Augusta, Me.

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Here's a happy hint for Summer,
And verily it is a "hummer."



We have 17,300 strong, perfect, Oriental, **Hammocks, which for the next** sixty days we shall place on the **Free List,** upon the conditions specified below. This will enable **every** one who is willing to render us a little service, to secure one **absolutely free.** These Hammocks are over 8 feet long, every one is tested to carry 300 lb. dead weight, is supplied with strong, white metal rings **at the** ends.

No home, picnic, camping, or outing party is complete without one. To recline in one of these health-giving articles in some cool nook after the day's work is done, or on a Sunday afternoon, is to repose in the lap of luxury.

Now to every one who will get up a club of **4** subscribers for this paper at the special trial price, 25 cents per year each in advance, we will send one of these Hammocks FREE, we paying all express and mailing charges. By showing a copy of this great paper to your neighbors, friends and acquaintances, you can easily get up a club in one evening; for with its many improvemens and new original copyrighted departments, now needs only to be seen to be appreciated. To those who do not care to go to the trouble of getting a club we will send our paper for one year, together with one of these Hammocks (all express and mailing charges paid by us) upon receipt of **97 cts.** Address, COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

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SEND NO MONEY CUT THIS ADVERTISEMENT OUT AND SEND TO US, mention Special Offer No. 169H1, say whether you wish gents' or ladies' bicycle, whether 22 or 24-inch frame, and we will send you this the highest grade 1900 model **Acme King or Acme Queen Bicycle by freight or express, C. O. D., subject to examination. You can examine it thoroughly** at your nearest railroad station, call in any bicycle expert to examine it and if you find it **exactly as represented,** perfectly satisfactory, pronounced by everyone a **strictly high grade 1900 model wheel, the greatest bicycle bargain ever offered,** the equal of any bicycle made, regardless of price; if you are convinced that you are saving from $20.00 to $30.00 and getting such a bicycle as you could not get elsewhere at anything like the price, **PAY YOUR RAILROAD AGENT OUR SPECIAL OFFER PRICE, $15.75** and freight or express charges, which average from 50 to 75 cents for each 500 miles.

TEN DAYS' FREE TRIAL.

After you pay the railroad agent our special offer price of $15.75, give the bicycle ten days' trial, during which time compare it with other bicycles that sell at double the price, and if you are not still satisfied that you have saved $20.00 to $30.00 and that you have the greatest bicycle value ever furnished, you can return the bicycle to us, at our expense of freight or express charges both ways, and we will immediately return your money.

OUR CHALLENGE OFFER. ORDER THIS, OUR 1900 MODEL ACME KING OR QUEEN BICYCLE at $15.75 and you can then order a bicycle from any other house or houses advertised in this or any other paper, let the different bicycles come to your railroad station to be examined, examine and compare them side by side, and if our bicycle is not pronounced by everyone at least $10.00 cheaper in price and $20.00 better in quality, you can return it to us at our expense.

OUR BINDING GUARANTEE WITH EVERY ACME KING AND ACME QUEEN BICYCLE, we furnish a written, binding, one-year guarantee, which accompanies every bicycle, by the terms and conditions of which if any piece or part gives out within one year, by reason of defect in material or workmanship, **we will replace or repair it free of charge.**

THE ACME KING AND ACME QUEEN BICYCLES are made by one of the best bicycle makers in America. They are the equal of bicycles that retail everywhere at $50.00. They are made from the best material that money can buy, made **on the very latest lines, newest models for 1900;** they embody every new improved and up-to-date **feature** of every other high grade bicycle made, with the defects of none. **They have the latest one-piece hanger, flush at every joint, flush cluster seat post, expander seat post and handle bar, 22 or 24-inch frame made from 1⅛-inch cold drawn seamless tubing,** connections are all the finest steel forgings and stampings, handsomely finished; **has the very latest arched crown, handsomely curved, shaped and finished;** handsome tapering fork. **They have the very latest diamond frame in the gents' style, the very latest handsomely curved drop frame in the ladies'.** The wheels are the highest grade 28-inch, fitted with **genuine Hercules spokes,** full finished. The very best **air seasoned rock elm rims are used,** very best large size hubs, **made from bar steel,** heavily nickel plated. The cranks are made from the finest forgings, the bearings from tool steel hardened in oil, accurately trued to gauge. Sprockets are made from selected forgings, heavily nickel plated and they come in a variety of handsome patterns. **We furnish with these bicycles at our special $15.75 price our own special high grade, season guaranteed, Seroco single tube tires, a pair of the highest grade tires made, complete** with tire repair outfit. The bicycle is fully equipped with high grade chain, high grade ball-bearing adjustable pedals, full padded saddle, up or down-turned handle bars, tool bag, pump, wrench, oiler and tire repair kit. **The bicycles are beautifully finished, handsomely decorated and ornamented.** They come regularly in plain solid black, highly enameled, which makes by far the richest appearing wheel. We also furnish them in green or maroon with striped line ornamentation when so desired. All usual parts are heavily nickel plated on copper.

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DON'T DELAY YOUR ORDER A DAY OUR SPECIAL $15.75 PRICE WILL HOLD GOOD ONLY UNTIL OUR PRESENT STOCK IS DISPOSED OF. Address,

YOU CAN MAKE $500.00 BETWEEN NOW AND FALL TAKING ORDERS FOR our bicycles at a profit of $5.00 to $10.00 on a wheel. **Order an Acme King or Queen at $15.75 and you can sell it the day you get it at $20.00 to $25.00,** continue the work during the season and you can sell from 50 to 100 bicycles, underselling every dealer in your section, and make for yourself at least $500.00.

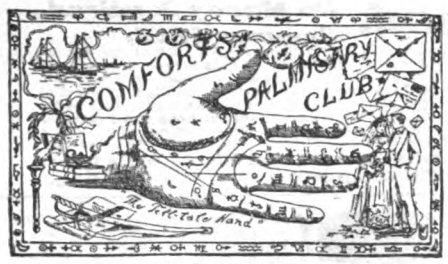
$15.75 IF YOU ORDER IMMEDIATELY. WE CAN ONLY GUARANTEE OUR SPECIAL $15.75 PRICE ON OUR HIGH GRADE, 1900 MODEL, flush joint Acme King and Acme Queen bicycles until our present stock is exhausted. If you wish to take advantage of our special offer price and get a bicycle at $15.75, **the equal of bicycles that sell everywhere at $40.00 to $50.00, you should place your order immediately.**

ASK YOUR NEIGHBORS ABOUT OUR BICYCLES. Last year we sold nearly 50,000 bicycles. At least a number of our wheels went into every community. **Some of your neighbors are riding our bicycles.** Ask them if they found the bicycle they bought of us last year perfectly satisfactory, exactly as represented and much cheaper than they could buy elsewhere. Consider that our wheels have been greatly improved, and our prices have been greatly reduced. **If you have any doubt about our ability to furnish a better wheel for less money than you can buy from any other house in Chicago or elsewhere, write to some friend in Chicago,** and ask them to come and examine our wheels and then examine the wheels offered by other houses, and if they don't write you that you can save from $5.00 to $20.00 on a bicycle by buying from us, we will not expect your order.

AS TO OUR RELIABILITY we refer by special permission to the National City Bank and German Exchange Bank of New York, the Metropolitan National Bank or Corn Exchange National Bank of Chicago, or to any railroad company, express company, business house or resident of Chicago and customers in every town in every state in the union.

DO NOT order our **Acme King or Queen** at our special $15.75 price unless you expect to accept it and pay the railroad agent our special offer price of $15.75 and freight charges when received, if you find it exactly as represented, perfectly satisfactory, and a far better wheel for the money than you could possibly buy elsewhere. We are anxious to receive your order; we know we can save you money, but we only want to hear from those who are ordering in good faith, who mean business, and who understand that $15.75 and freight charges must be paid to the railroad agent before they can receive the bicycle. The railroad agent will not deliver this bicycle to you until you have paid him our special offer price, **$15.75,** and express or freight charges, but we will return your $15.75, and all railroad charges, if, at any time, within ten days, you become dissatisfied for any cause whatsoever and return the bicycle to us.

SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO. (INC.) CHEAPEST SUPPLY HOUSE ON EARTH. **CHICAGO, ILL.**



CONDUCTED BY DIGITUS.

CONDITIONS.

To have one's hands read in this department, by Digitus, one of the finest living palmists, it is necessary to observe the following conditions:

Impressions of both hands must be sent, fully postpaid and having the name, address and nom de plume of the sender enclosed in the package also.

The package must in every instance be accompanied by the names and addresses of eight new subscribers at twenty-five cents each, the whole amount, $2.00 being remitted, with the package, addressed to COMFORT PALMISTRY CLUB, Augusta, Maine.

No notice will be taken of impressions and requests for readings unle-s the sender has fully complied with the above conditions.

To take impressions, first hold two large pieces of blank paper over a candle or similar flame, until they are heavily coated with the smoke. Then lay these pieces down, smoke side uppermost on a pad of cotton. Now place the two hands, palms downward, one on each sheet of paper, pressing firmly and steadily down, but taking care not to move the hand. Keep them so for one minute and lift carefully, so as not to disturb the impression. Have ready some fixatif, which can be bought at a drug store or an art store or made with gum arabic and water in an atomizer. Spray this over the impressions before they are moved and allow them to dry. Then they are ready to send.

Smoked paper impressions are the best. But if it is desired to send a plaster cast, take plaster of Paris and dissolve in water to the consistency of thick cream. Pour this into a large shallow dish and when it is hardening place the hand, well-greased, palm downward, in the plaster, pressing downward. Several minutes will be required to get this impression and great care must be taken in removing the hand, not to break the plaster. Casts are exceedingly difficult to send without breaking and should be very carefully packed in a box with the name of the sender written on it. Putty is sometimes successfully used in place of plaster. A good photograph if sufficiently well taken to bring out all the lines, can also be read, although in all cases the smoked paper is the best, if properly treated with fixatif.

Bear in Mind that all the above conditions must be observed.

Also, that letters not complying with them will go into the waste-basket. Readings cannot appear for several months after impressions are sent.

SOME of the hands which I am to read this month are excellently taken, while others are so dim that it is almost impossible to read them. The first two were sent both as impressions and photographs so that one helps the other.

"Charlotte Elizabeth" has a good hand, although it indicates a person of nervous temperament and sensitive disposition. The life line is broken at about the age of thirty-five in the right hand, but in the left it is much better. If she is a left-handed person, no significance would attach to this, but if not, she will have either a severe illness or some accident at the age indicated by the break, with a decided change of life thereafter either in location or in purpose. If she has an illness, she will recover from it and everything will go on much better afterwards. She is a person who believes in herself and her own capabilities and has the courage to carry out whatever she thinks is for the best, even in the face of opposition. She will have more or less opposition from friends in whatever she undertakes, especially during the first half of her life, but she will not allow this to interfere with her progress and will carry out whatever she undertakes. She has a great love for the beautiful and has some talent for art or music, although I do not think she has developed these as much as she might. She would do well as a painter or photographer, either. She loves all bright, sunny and pleasant things, but she would set her standard high and will often be disappointed in her friends. She would be inclined a little toward extravagance, would be fond of dress and luxury. The marriage lines are not well marked on either hand and I can distinguish but one; this will take place as late as thirty-five, I should say and perhaps will have something to do with her change of life at that time. The marriage will not be of very long duration. She is fond of home and will never travel very extensively, being so domestic in her tastes. An island appearing on the Mount of Apollo is not a good sign, indicating danger of some loss of reputation or popularity. At the same time, it may mean only hereditary weakness of some sort. "Charlotte Elizabeth" would have excellent success on the stage if she were to adopt that vocation, as she has many gifts which would make her successful there.



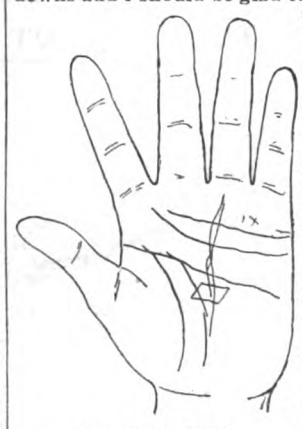
CHARLOTTE ELIZABETH.

"Catherine" has very different hands from the ones just read, the lines being more deeply marked and indicating quite a different character. The life line is too deeply marked to indicate perfect health, although strengthened by an inner line along its worst part. "Catherine" will marry not far from the age of thirty and will outlive her husband, in fact, she will live to be seventy or more, as will "Charlotte Elizabeth." "Catherine's" hand is exceedingly pliable, indicating an artistic nature and showing a great deal of tact. There is an enormous star in the middle of the hand on the head line, indicating some strange good luck in middle life and some strange fatality. There is danger, however, that she will become the plaything of the man she loves, although it is also an indication that she is remarkably true and trustworthy and that she will become worth quite a fortune sometime by her own merits and exertions. She, too, has all the signs which would indicate great success on the stage, although she lacks the perseverance that would take her to the degree of success she might otherwise win. She will travel in whatever walk of life is hers and her marriage will be a happy one. She is very ambitious, but self controlled and good tempered. She has a great deal of tact in dealing with others and a peculiar faculty of winning friends. On the whole she has an excellent hand, full of promise and with some remarkable lines.



CATHERINE.

"C. O. Debarred" sends smoked paper impressions which have not been treated with fixative and are therefore very badly blurred, but I will do the best I can with them and if they are not satisfactory she must have other impressions taken correctly. The hand seems to be a strong one in many particulars denoting a good constitution and long life. There is a line of Mars inside of the life line denoting a great deal of combativeness and ability to make her own way in the world. This line repairs and mitigates the evil effects that may be indicated on the life line and gives to its possessor great success in arms if the subject be a male and great ability to cope with the world if she be a woman. One palmist says that there is always a love affair at the age which it begins. I cannot quite see on this impression where it begins, but I should judge that there was a love affair where it started and one that did not turn out well. I think there are two marriages indicated, one not far from twenty and one about fifteen years later. There will be some very great protection from injury between twenty and twenty-five and from that will come influences that last throughout the life. This is a strange life with many ups and downs and I should be glad to see the hand itself instead of the impression of it, if it were possible.



C. O. DEBARRED.

"Zella" wants to know what a conjunction of the head and life lines denotes. If they are united at the top with many fine lines intermingling they denote a lack of self confidence and that the subject has been very much under the influence of other people during youth; they also denote ill health during the time which the life line is united to the head. If on the contrary the head line sweeps down the hand and unites with the life line at the lower end it is a very bad sign indicating disgrace and suicide. This conjunction however is very rare.

Another wants to know what it means if the head line is broken under the Mount of the Sun in the left hand and not in the right. Nothing. In order to have it signify anything this sign must appear in both hands when it would mean that some serious trouble connected with the affections occurred with reference to a person of the Apollo type, or it might mean death by heart disease at the age indicated. Two marriage lines of equal length and shape would indicate two marriages when they appear under the fourth finger and are corroborated by marriage lines on the fate or life line, otherwise they mean engagements only. The fate line rising on the Mount of Venus and descending to the head line would come through the person's own efforts aided if by anyone, by some woman. Stopping at the line of head it means that misfortune will arise either from some bad calculation, or from some brain trouble.

The fate line is one of the most important lines to read in palmistry as it affects every other line and mount on the hand and is also affected by them. If it is absent from a hand it indicates an insignificant life.

Digitus

Book of Gold Mines Free!

A prominent Denver publisher who is familiar with every phase of life in the Cripple Creek (Colorado) gold camp has just published a volume which he styles "Cripple Creek Illustrated." The book contains nearly 100 views of the big gold mines of the camp, a correct map, and in fact a world of information. Full reports of ore mined, dividends paid, etc. The edition cost $1000 to issue. To introduce his big illustrated weekly family paper (founded 1890) he will send you a copy of "Cripple Creek Illustrated" and his paper 13 weeks on trial for 25c. Clubs of 5, $1. Stamps taken. Latest mining news and western stories. Mention our paper when you write and address, *Illustrated Weekly*, Denver, Colorado.

Women who suffer with ailments peculiar to their sex, from stooping shoulders, weak back and general ill-health or lack of strength and vitality, will be interested in the advertisement of The Natural Body Brace in another column. Husbands and friends of such women will be interested in it also. The company's high standing and pleasing business methods are vouched for by the leading banks throughout the country and by many thousands of customers. Satisfaction is guaranteed by the fact that the full purchase price is refunded to anyone not pleased after 30 days' trial. The Brace is comfortable and invigorating. It brings light step, graceful figure, and good health. It enables a weakly woman to walk, work, ride a wheel or play tennis or golf, with ease and pleasure. It is free from all the objectionable features of other supports and treatments. It does away with pessaries. We suggest that you read the advertisement and write at once for free book and full particulars.

We furnish samples free to agents. F. S. Frost, Lubec, Me., sold $132.79, retail in 6 days. Write for Catalog, new goods, rapid sellers. RICHARDSON MFG. CO., C St., Bath, N. Y.

PILES ELECTROBOLE gives instant relief. Final cure in a few days, never returns; no purge, no salve, no knife. Remedy mailed Free. Address J. H. REEVES, Box 695, New York, N. Y.



LEARN TO HYPNOTIZE! Control whom you wish. Make others love and obey you. Cures diseases. Makes fun by the hour. New and instantaneous method. Quick as a flash. YOU can learn it. Success sure. Mammoth illustrated LESSON and full particulars FREE! Send address at once. Prof. L. A. Harraden, - JACKSON, MICH.



SEND NO MONEY

If you live within 1,000 miles of Chicago, if over 1,000 miles, SEND ONE DOLLAR. Cut this Ad. out and send to us, and we will send you by freight, C. O. D., subject to examination, this GENUINE WAVERLY, new pattern, handsomely colored, decorated 200-piece Semi-Porcelain Dinner Set. YOU CAN EXAMINE IT at your freight depot, and if found perfectly satisfactory, exactly as represented, and THE GREATEST VALUE YOU EVER HEARD OF, pay the freight agent our Special Offer Price.... $6.45 and freight charges (or $5.45 and freight charges if $1.00 is sent with order.) THIS SET CONSISTS OF 100 PIECES of Genuine Waverly Semi-Porcelain White China Ware with full color decoration of handsome floral design in green, blue or brown, as desired. Very latest shape, three fired, will not craze, chip, crack or wear, hard as flint, practically indestructible. The following 100 Full-Size Pieces Complete Set: 12 soup plates, 12 5-inch plates, 12 7-inch plates, 12 coffee cups, 12 saucers, 12 individual butter dishes, 12 4-inch fruit plates, 1 8-inch platter, 1 12-inch platter, 1 7-inch baker, 1 8-inch baker, 1 8-inch covered dish, 1 pickle dish, 1 sauce boat, 1 covered butter dish, 1 sugar bowl, 1 extra bowl, 1 large pitcher, 1 medium pitcher. Freight will be about 50 cents for each 500 miles. YOU WILL SAVE ONE-HALF IN PRICE. ORDER NOW. DON'T DELAY. WRITE FOR FREE CROCKERY CATALOGUE. Address, SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO. (INC.), CHICAGO. (Sears, Roebuck & Co. are thoroughly reliable.—Editor.)

Marriage PAPER FREE, many very rich. EASTERN AGENCY 54, Bridgeport, Ct.

C. S. A. MONEY Circulars free. Address P. E. Cheney, Box 6, Mutual, Ohio.

WED 5,000 WANT TO MARRY; many rich. LISTS and PICTURES FREE. WALTER McDONNELL, C 21, Chicago, Ill. **WISELY**

WE are giving away Silk Waists for a little work. Address, NATIONAL MEDICINE CO., New Haven, Conn.

ADDRESS The National Supply Co., Detroit, Mich., for their liberal offer to Boys and Girls.

$25 mail course in magnetic healing, hypnotism, &c. Free. Pay after learning. Empire College, St. Louis, Mo.

10,000 ARE VERY ANXIOUS TO **GET MARRIED** Many rich. Big lists with pictures and addresses FREE. The PILOT, 6, Station E. Chicago.

Get Married 8,000 Ladies are VERY ANXIOUS TO MARRY. Many very beautiful and wealthy. Send 2 cts. for big list of ladies and gents, with full description and residence. Satisfaction guaranteed. UNION CORRESPONDING CLUB, Box 508, AUSTIN, ILLS.

MORPHINE Free Trial Treatment for Morphine, Opium or other drug habit. Painless, permanent Home Cure. Contains great vital principle lacking in all others. Confidential. St. Paul Association, 48 Van Buren St., Chicago.



Solid GOLD OR SILVER plated Bracelet sent free to LADIES GOLD plated Dress with an exquisite jewel.) Simply send your name & address & we will send you the pins postmoney & we will send you the fully engraved & the lock opens trust you & will take back all paid. When sold, send us the to-day. The MAXWELL CO. Bracelet. The chain is beautiful with a dainty little key. We anyone for selling 6 sets of our Pins for 25c. a set; (each pin set the pins you cannot sell. Write DEPT. 535 St. Louis, Mo

HAIR LIKE THIS



We will forward FREE To any address, full information how to grow hair upon the baldest head, stop hair falling, cure weak eyebrows and eyelashes, scanty parting, scurf, dandruff, itching scalp, and restore gray and faded hair to its natural color. Enclose 2 cent stamp for sealed package. Address Lorrimer & Co., 331 N. Howard St., Baltimore, Md.

FOR WOMEN ONLY!

Those suffering from Leucorrhœa, Irregularities of the Monthly Period, Change of Life or any of the diseases common to women, have at last a positive cure for their ailment. One Full Treatment Absolutely **FREE** to patients. Woman's Guide to Beauty and Health, a handsome book, beautifully illustrated, which should be in the hands of every woman in the land, sent free of charge, by addressing

FALLOPIA LYNN CO., Dept. 37, St. Louis, Mo.

FREE



DO YOU WANT A WATCH that runs & keeps good time This watch has a SOLID GOLD laid case, handsome dial dust proof, adjusted to position, patent escapement, and highly finished. This is a remarkable watch. We guarantee it, and with proper care it should wear and give satisfaction for 20 years. It has the appearance of a SOLID GOLD one. The watch is accompanied with a 20 YEAR GUARANTEE. The cases are beautifully made by the most skilled workmen. The movement is an AMERICAN STYLE, expansion balance, quick train, and you can rely upon it that when you own one of these truly handsome watches, you will at all times have the correct time in your possession. Do you want a watch of this character? If so, now is your opportunity to secure one. WE GIVE IT FREE as a premium to anyone for selling 18 pieces of our handsome jewelry, for 10c. each (each set with an exquisite jewel). Regular price 25c. each. Simply send your name and address and we will send you the 18 pieces of jewelry postpaid. When sold send us the $1.80, and we will send you the handsome watch. We trust you and will take back all you cannot sell. We propose to give away these watches simply to advertise our business. No catch-words in this advertisement. We mean just what we say and allow a cash commission if preferred. You require no capital while working for us. Address, SAFE WATCH CO., P. O. Box 180, New York.

$5.00 SHAVING SET FREE



for selling only six of our Electric Porous Plasters. We want to prove there is a sure prevention and cure for Lame Back, La Grippe, Coughs, Colds, Pneumonia, Rheumatism, etc., etc., and will send you six of our 25c. Plasters which you are to sell and return the money ($1.50) to us and we will send you all charges paid, the elegant Shaving Set packed in a case eight inches long, six inches wide and five inches high. The combination consists of 1 Royal Steel Swedish Razor, single value, $3.00; 1 Genuine, Horsehide, Double, Reversible, Canvass-back, Nickle-hung, Ebonized handle Razor Strop, value $1.00; 1 Real China Shaving Mug; 1 Cake Star Shaving Soap; 1 Best Bristle, large handle Lather Brush; 1 Cake Perfumed Lump Magnesia; 1 Stick rich perfumed Cosmetic, making a grand $5.00 combination. Every man should have an outfit in the house for emergency's use. Every Woman should see to it that either her Father, her Husband, her Brother or her Sweetheart has one of these outfits. They make the best presents one can give to a gentleman.

Don't wait but send to-day for Plasters. One agent sold the six in six minutes. Address THE G. O. PLASTER CO., Box 654, Augusta, Maine.



Develops the Bust 6 inches, fills all hollow places, adds grace, curve and beauty to the neck, softens and clears the skin. Beautiful women everywhere owe their superb figures and matchless loveliness to VESTRO Harmless, permanent, NEVER FAILS. Every lady should have this unrivaled developer. Adds charm and attraction to plainest women. Full particulars, photographs, testimonials, etc., sealed for 2-cent stamp. Write to-day. AURUM MEDICINE CO., Dept. A. S, 55 State St., CHICAGO.

62-PIECE DINNER SET FREE for selling 20 pounds of our QUEEN BAKING POWDER.



Our inducements are enormous. To every purchaser of a pound can of our Queen Baking Powder with a bottle of Vanilla Extract, box Wash Blue, package of Pepper, cake of Toilet Soap and a box of Polishall, we give free a beautiful Royal Blue Pitcher and 6 Glasses to match. To the lady who sells 20 pound cans Queen Baking Powder with the above mentioned articles we will make a present of a handsome 62-piece Dinner Set. We also have Coffee, Teas, Spice, Extracts and Baking Powder offers with valuable premiums to agents We also give cash commission. Write to-day for our illustrated plans and premiums, it will pay you. We pay freight and allow agents time to deliver goods before paying for them. AMERICAN SUPPLY CO., 119 and 121 Locust St., Dept. 57, St. Louis, Mo.

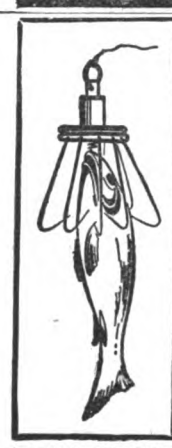
$1000 IN GOLD FREE

FOR BRAINY PEOPLE

14	5	23	25	15	18	11				
23	1	19	8	9	14	7	20	15	14	
3	8	9	3	1	7	15				

FOR BRAINY PEOPLE

Each one of the above three lines of figures spells the name of a great city in the United States. This is a brand new puzzle and can be solved with a little study, as follows: There are twenty-six letters in the alphabet, and we have used figures in spelling the cities instead of letters. Letter A is number 1, B number 2, C number 3, etc., throughout the entire alphabet. IF YOU CAN SPELL OUT THESE THREE CITIES YOU MAY SHARE IN THE DISTRIBUTION OF $1,000 WHICH WE ARE GIVING AWAY for doing a little work for us. This you can do in less than one hour of your time. This and other most liberal offers are made to introduce one of the very best New York magazines into every home in the United States and Canada. WE DO NOT WANT ONE CENT OF YOUR MONEY. When you have made out the names of these three cities, write them plainly on a postal card and send it to us, and you will hear from us promptly BY RETURN MAIL. It may take an entire evening to solve the three names, but STICK TO IT AND TRY TO GET YOUR SHARE OF THE $1,000. A copy of this high-class ONE DOLLAR MAGAZINE WILL BE SENT FREE to everyone answering this advertisement. Do not delay. Send your answer in immediately. Address ROBINSON PUBLISHING CO., 24 North William Street, New York City.



—THE— **EAGLE CLAW,**

A WONDERFUL INVENTION. BEST TRAP IN THE WORLD for CATCHING FISH, ANIMALS, AND ALL MANNER OF GAME.



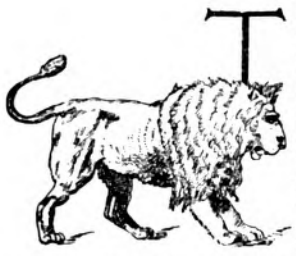
A wonderful and most ingenious device. It is easy to set, suited to any bait, can be used anywhere, nothing CAN ESCAPE UNTIL RELEASED. Every fish, muskrat, or squirrel which bites at the bait is surely caught. Perfectly safe for children, will not rust. One bait will catch from 20 to 30 fish. Will spring in any position; in short, it is a grand triumph over the unsafe and uncertain common fish-hook. Highly recommended by the Tribune, World, Press, and the Turf, Field and Farm. The Ohio Farmer says: "The Eagle Claw is a very ingenious article. The best device for catching fish and game we ever saw. Safe, sure and convenient." No. 1 is for all ordinary fishing, the ladies' favorite. No. 2 is for general use, both large and small fish and game. We have sold thousands, and they have all given splendid satisfaction.

PREMIUM OFFER. We will send a No. 1, Eagle Claw Hook and our splendid monthly paper six months on trial for only 30 cents; or, send us 50 cents and we will send the No. 12, Eagle Claw-hook and our paper on trial six months. Price, per dozen, by express, No. 1, $2.25; No. 2, $3.50.

Address COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.



CONDUCTED BY REGULUS.



THE moon overtakes and passes the sun, forming what is called the "New Moon", at about nineteen minutes after eight o'clock in the evening of 26th of June this year. At the moment of meeting, the 20th degree of Capricorn will be rising and the 13th degree of Scorpio will be on the south meridian. Saturn will be nearly an hour above the eastern horizon in the ascending sign Capricorn, where he is in his dignity; Herschel will be in the 11th house in the moon's node and Jupiter will be in the 10th near the 11th cusp in his own sign; Mercury and Venus, nearly together, are just about to pass down in the west; the sun and moon have already set only a few degrees away from Neptune, and Mars is in the 4th house.

As in the figure for the summer quarter given last month, the benevolent Jupiter holds powerful sway in shaping conditions and events to the great good of our Nation and the prosperity and welfare of the whole people. In the language of the books "the ruled people shall continue to thrive and be fortunate and successful under his government" during the period of the lunation.

Saturn ruler of the Ascendant and rising indicates some marked improvement in real estate matters and particular activity in the building trades; fruitfulness of the earth and favor to farmers.

Mars in the 4th, however, threatens some harm around the 8th and the middle ten days in July. It will be reasonable to look for quite a heated term with probability of much electrical phenomena and unusual thunder and hail storm in certain sections in those days, which may detract somewhat from the general good promises as to vegetation. Good care is suggested in the days indicated for avoidance of physical ills arising from intemperate use of ice water or other cold drinks and carelessness as to diet. For this year there will be more discomfort and sickness from ailments of the stomach and liver than for many years. Intemperate use of stimulating foods and drinks will be attended with more then customary mischief and apoplectic troubles will be more dangerous than usual.

Some very important engagements and developments in the dramatic, artistic and musical world are likely, and marriage of some one high in these professions invites public comment. There will be more pleasure seeking than usual in July, unusual travel upon the water, and likewise an increase of mortality from drowning. Let all pleasure seekers have unusual care in this respect.

CELESTIAL CALENDAR FOR JULY, 1900.

JULY. 1—Sunday. A day inviting patience, forbearance, rest and quiet.

2—Monday. Bright and prosperous are the conditions of this day; authors and artists may claim this as their own; publishers and dealers in poetical works and art productions should improve every moment; the intellectual pursuits are particularly favored; the mind is clear and active, the imagination lively, and activity and cheerfulness are generally noticeable; the conditions give special activity in dealings in fancy goods, jewelry, perfumes, silks, and articles of beauty and adornment; tailors, watchmakers, jewelers and workers in wax have happy influences; make thy journeys, take recreation and seek pleasure and amusement; the day promises happy marriage to those assuming the relation at this time, unless the individual nativities are radically evil in this respect. Persons born about the 25th of January, 16th of May, 28th of July, or 18th of November, of past years, are particularly favored on this day and should not waste a moment but push all their engagements with vigor, especially if they find their avocations among the elegant classes.

3—Tuesday. Ask no favors from thy landlord, nor look for much benefit from dealings with contractors or any persons engaged in the dirty avocations of life; indecision and forgetfulness will be common faults; make no beginnings in any matter of consequence.

4—Wednesday. Independence Day. One of the superior days of the month. Improve every moment, notwithstanding it is a holiday; be active in all matters of an intellectual and literary character; travel and make engagements in all ways possible.

5—Thursday. Baffling circumstances attend the prosecution of business relating to fancy and ornamental goods, musical merchandise and also the pursuit of the fine arts; beware of making any matrimonial engagement at this time nor expect much enjoyment from the pursuit of pleasure or amusement.

6—Friday. Urge business vigorously during this day; increase thine efforts in the prosecution of business such as concerns house or lands; deal in such commodities as coal, iron, petroleum, wood, lumber, lead, wool and grain and with discretion in mining and railroad stocks, provided thy nativity is favorable also in this respect at this time; make contracts for building and repairing; deal with persons engaged in fiduciary capacities; enter into shipping contracts and engage help.

7—Saturday. This is an excellent day for pushing matters connected with art, music, fancy goods, articles of dress and the beautiful and elegant in life; ask favors from thine employer.

8—Sunday. This day is peculiarly fortunate for religious affairs, though the evening should be given the preference in such matters. Persons born about the 5th of January or April, 8th of October or 6th of December, of past years, are likely to be in the midst of baffling circumstances at this time and will need to exercise more than usual care in matters of diet and also in their business associations and enterprises. They should not inaugurate any new ventures at this time, but act very conservatively in all their undertakings.

9—Monday. Put a bridle on the tongue in the forenoon, cultivate patience and avoid excitement and inflammations of the body; also have care in handling fire or combustibles as some unusual losses from fire are indicated at large in these passing days; give preference to the afternoon for all kinds of literary work and for dealing with persons in the intellectual callings; also for making commercial contracts of consequence.

10—Tuesday. The forenoon is the best part of this day for business engagements of any kind, though but little encouragement can be given for any transaction pertaining to lands or buildings; keep out of underground places and be watchful against fire.

11—Wednesday. A day not specially conducive to progress in any direction, though it is by no means unfavorable for any of the general transactions of life; the evening is less propitious than usual and musical, dramatical, and artistic callings will be adversely affected.

12—Thursday. Do not seek promotion in official station nor any advancement in business from thine employer; be watchful of the purse and avoid taking risks in the commercial world. Persons born about the 11th of January, 1st of June, 12th of July, or 3rd of December, of past years, will need to exercise extraordinary care for avoidance of controversy and litigation in their business affairs; should be watchful against any inflammatory complaint and see that they are not hurt by vicious animals and that no loss comes from fire or explosion.

13—Friday. Another of the superior days of the month and REGULUS advises his friends to engage actively in the prosecutions of their several callings; begin important work of all kinds whether in mechanism, trade, or the fine arts; the forenoon is best for commercial ventures and dealings with persons of wealth and refinement.

14—Saturday. Have caution in all thy business engagements of the forenoon; do not deal in real estate nor make contracts for building or repairs; sign no papers of consequence, nor expect much permanent progress in any undertaking; the middle hours of the day are the best. Persons born about the 11th of January, 1st of March, 30th of May, 14th of July, 2d of September, or 1st of December, of past years, are likely to be more baffled and disappointed in conducting their affairs at this time, and should not make beginning in any important transaction. Business ventures now presenting themselves to such persons are not to be relied upon as they are not destined to work for the advantage of persons so born and will prove delusive and exhaustive of the worldly substance.

15—Sunday. Not particularly promising for a Sabbath day, though the middle hours of the day are the best; do not expect any advantage or satisfaction from thy dealings with the aged in the evening.

16—Monday. Push all regularly established business on this day but do not make beginnings in new ventures; deal with government authorities or persons in authority in the middle hours of the day.

17—Tuesday. Commercial men will find the middle hours of this day the best, when all general business should be pressed. It is not a good time, however, for the execution of writings, particularly those concerned with real estate, nor for promises or agreements relating to literary or educational matters. Persons born about the 4th of February, 6th of May, or the 8th of August or November, of past years, are likely to be unusually disturbed or anxious over writings, contracts or matters of account, or have mental or nervous excitements or baffling annoyances in correspondence or their affairs generally while those born about the 5th of April, 9th of October, or 8th of December, or June of past years have now more agreeable and profitable correspondence; effect more satisfactory engagements and contracts and should improve the time to push their important literary ventures. Persons born about the 6th of January or December or the 9th July, of past years should have unusual care just at this time for avoidance of hurts or losses from machinery, fire, and vicious animals.

18—Wednesday. Be early astir; be active and diligent in business and urge all honorable pursuits to the utmost, giving preference to the early hours for thy dealings with chemists, surgeons, manufacturers, iron and brass workers, bakers and all persons in the mechanical trades, also for all literary engagements and dealings with persons in such avocations.

19—Thursday. Quite a favorable day for the agricultural classes also for engaging with landlords and in matters connected with lands and houses; the afternoon and evening are particularly recommended for the elegant pursuits and for important engagements of a dramatic, musical or social nature.

20—Friday. Make no contract in the morning and be very careful in the use of the pen, postponing correspondence until the afternoon. Literary matters are adversely affected in the forenoon.

21—Saturday. Ask favors of persons in authority during the forenoon but keep a watchful eye upon the purse as needless or unprofitable expenditures are quite likely to be invited.

22—Sunday. An excellent day for the improvement of the mind and for proper appreciation of the merits of literary and scientific productions; pulpit efforts are likely to be eloquent and effective.

23—Monday. The forenoon hours are the best and all general business should be prosecuted with vigor therein, but as the afternoon advances baffling influences interfere with realization of best results from engagements of those later hours.

24—Tuesday. For authors, musicians and artists, this is an especially fortunate time as it is also for matrimonial engagements; let all engaged in the polite arts improve every moment, urging and realizing from their several pursuits; purchase goods for trade also all articles of dress, adornment, or decoration, also musical merchandise, dramatic appurtenances, artists' materials etc. The day is generally one of the best ones for all the honorable undertakings; make beginnings, open new stores and in every way push thy commercial enterprises.

25—Wednesday. A day not specially conducive to progress in any direction, though it is by no means unfavorable for any of the general transactions of life.

26—Thursday. Begin this day with the sun and urge all manner of business to the utmost. It is the merchant's own day, and also very fortunate for every honorable pursuit; buy goods for trade, speculate in legitimate ways and apply for favor or money accommodations during the forenoon.

27—Friday. Do not abate thine efforts of yesterday, but press all manner of business especially of literary or artistic nature; give preference to the afternoon for transaction of business concerned with hardware, cutlery, metals, glassware, brass and iron work and chemical and electrical apparatus; and experiment in chemistry or with machinery.

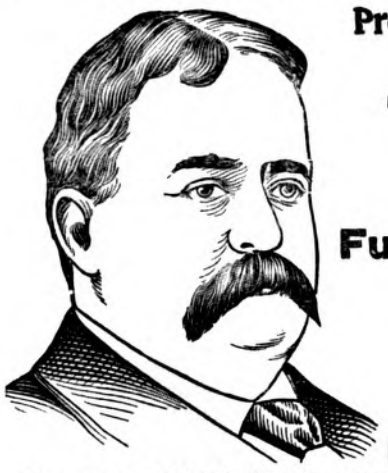
28—Saturday. Give preference to the forenoon of this day for the active pursuit of all general business and particularly such as is concerned with houses and lands and for the purchase and sale of such commodities as coal, iron, petroleum, wood, lumber, lead, wool and grain; the afternoon is adverse in a commercial sense; do not speculate nor waste thy means for needless or unsatisfactory expenditures. Persons born about the 20th of February or May, or 25th of August are cautioned against losses and property shrinkages likely to result here from speculative investments and unwise expenditures; while persons born about the 21st of January, 22d of March, or 24th of July, September or November, of past years, have improved finances and a much better degree of success in life this year and near this time.

29—Sunday. Specially conducive to mental eccentricities and indulgences in the imaginative and marvelous in literature. Social matters are somewhat unpleasantly affected at this time in the lives of persons born about the 27th of March, 1st of October, or 23rd of December of past years and more than ordinary care should be had for avoidance of any kind of intemperate indulgences.

30—Monday. Guard well the temper on this day and be not drawn into disputes and controversies; avoid travel and be wary of entering upon new undertakings now presenting themselves; sign no contracts of consequence and be cautious in the use of the pen.

31—Tuesday. Push all business to the utmost in the forenoon hours when buy goods for trade and deal with banks and persons of wealth; the elegant pursuits are not favored during the noon hours, but the late afternoon and evening invite mental efforts and all intellectual engagements.

PERFECT MANHOOD



Prof. Jules Laborde's Marvelous French Preparation of

"CALTHOS"

For Lost Manhood.

Full 5 Days' Treatment

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By Sealed Mail.

NO C. O. D. OR DEPOSIT SCHEME.

Every person who is a sufferer from nervous diseases should write the Von Mohl Co., Cincinnati, Ohio, at once, and accept their offer of a five days' trial treatment free of charge. This is no C. O. D. or DEPOSIT scheme but a liberal proposition made to unfortunate sufferers by this long-established concern, which is the largest importer of specifics for nervous and sexual diseases in the world.

The Von Mohl Co. has the sole American rights for Prof. Laborde's French preparation of "Calthos," the only remedy known to advanced medical science that will positively cure nervous debility. This remedy has for years been used as a specific in the French and German armies, and since its introduction into the United States has cured many thousands of sufferers, and the remarkable success of the remedy in Europe has been repeated in this country.

In order to place this wonderful treatment in the hands of every person who suffers the mental and physical anguish of sexual weakness, The Von Mohl Co., has decided to send a free trial treatment to all who write at once. The remedy is sent by mail in a plain package, and there is no publicity in receiving it or taking it. Accompanying the medicine there is a full treatise in plain language for you to read. Take the medicine privately with perfect safety, and a sure cure is guaranteed.

Lost vitality creeps upon men unawares. Do not deceive yourself or remain in ignorance while you are being dragged down by this insidious disease. No matter what the cause may be, whether early abuses, excesses or overwork and business cares, the results are the same—premature loss of strength and memory, emissions, impotency, varicocele and shrunken parts. This specific remedy will cure you at any stage before epilepsy results, with ensuing consumption and insanity. "Calthos" goes directly to the seat of the trouble, no matter of how long standing, and the patient feels the benefit of the first day's treatment. In five days the medicines sent free will make you feel like a new man.

The Von Mohl Co. often receives the most astonishing testimonials from persons who have taken only five days' treatment. They have thousands of testimonials from those who have been permanently cured after having been given up by doctors, misled and ruined in health by disreputable medical schemers, and when they had given up their last hope for health and happiness. No sensible person will permit his name to be used for a testimonial as an admission that he had any of the diseases for which the preparation of "Calthos" is a specific cure. Some irresponsible advertisers are using "made-up" testimonials, but the Von Mohl Co. invariably declines to make public the names or correspondence of any patients who have been cured by "Calthos."

Five days' treatment will be placed in your hands free of cost, and you are earnestly urged for your own sake to send for it without delay. Write to day and send your address. It is not necessary to give embarrassing details of your symptoms. The book accompanying the five days' treatment will enable you to take the medicine in private and treat yourself successfully at home. It costs nothing to try this remedy. It may cost you a great deal more to let this offer go by. Write today. Address THE VON MOHL CO. 826 B, CINCINNATI, OHIO. Largest Importers of Standard Preparations in the United States

DISCOVERED BY A WOMAN.

I have discovered a positive cure for all female diseases and the piles. It never fails to cure any of the various diseases peculiar to women, such as leucorrhœa, displacements, ulceration, granulation, etc., or the piles from any cause or in either sex. I will gladly mail a box of this wonderful medicine free to every sufferer. Mrs. C. B. MILLER, Box 106, Kokomo, Ind.

LADIES, Send to **Mrs. H.C.Fretter,** Detroit, Mich., for free package **ORANGE LILY.** Cures all female diseases.

ASTROLOGY To prove the correctness of my Astrological System, I will give you my personal attention and send you FREE, a personal typewritten Horoscope of your life. Send your date of birth and 2c. stamp for postage. Prof. H. Edison, Astrologer, T, Binghamton, N.Y.

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Mothers I can cure your children of incontinence of urine. Sample **FREE.** Address **F. E. MAY, M. D., Bloomington, Ill.**

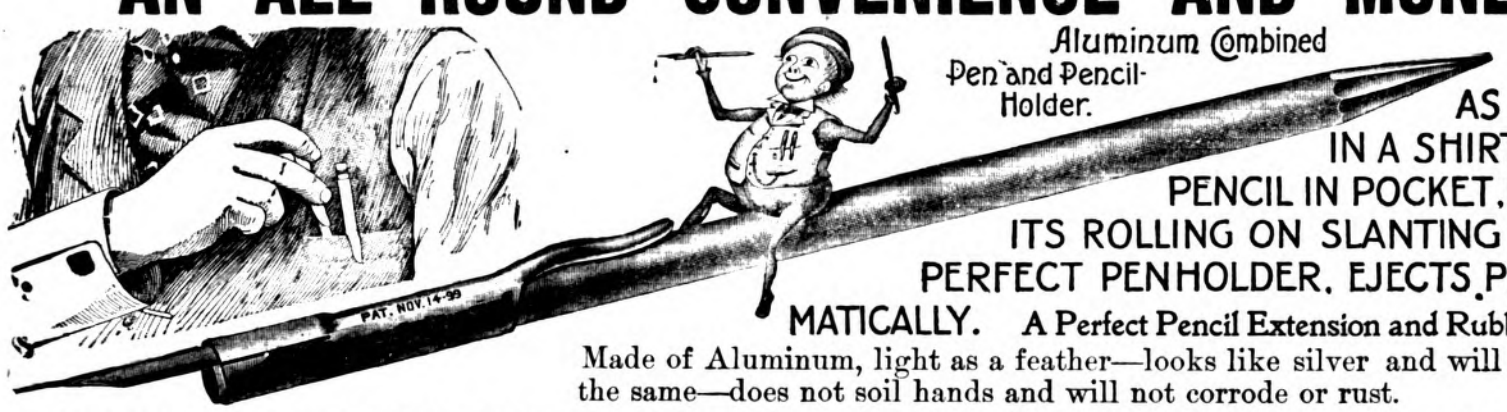
$50 IN GOLD FREE.

The very stylish dandy that appears in this advertisement represents a flower that grows wild in our yards and fields. We are going to give away **$50 IN GOLD** to those who are able to send us the correct name of this flower. **WE DO NOT WANT A CENT OF YOUR MONEY,** and there is only one condition attached to this offer, which will not take one hour of your time. When you have made out your answer send it to us on a postal card, **AND YOU WILL HEAR FROM US BY RETURN MAIL.** It may take you an entire evening to solve this question, but **STICK TO IT AND TRY AND GET YOUR SHARE OF THE $50,** as we are going to give it away, and you might as well have your share as not.



The Metropolitan and Rural Home,
225 William St., New York City.

AN ALL ROUND CONVENIENCE AND MONEY MAKER.



HANDY AS A POCKET IN A SHIRT. HOLDS PENCIL IN POCKET, PREVENTS ITS ROLLING ON SLANTING DESK. A PERFECT PENHOLDER, EJECTS PEN AUTOMATICALLY. A Perfect Pencil Extension and Rubber Protector.

Made of Aluminum, light as a feather—looks like silver and will always wear the same—does not soil hands and will not corrode or rust.

The price of these Holders with pencil is ten cents each, but we want them introduced quickly and make the following

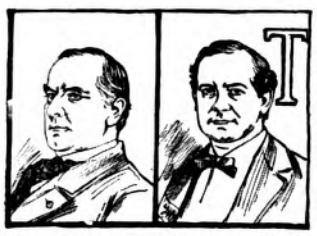
SPECIAL OFFER. Enclose only 6c. for a three months' subscription to Family Herald and we will send free one sample holder, a nice rubber tipped pencil and best steel pen, also full particulars how to make honest dollars.

EXTRA SPECIAL OFFER. Send 25c. for a year's subscription and we send half dozen rubber tipped lead pencils which you can sell for 30c., half dozen Pen and Pencil holders sell for 30c., half dozen best steel pens sell for 6c., total retail value of goods given you free 66c. and we also send full directions and instructions how to start and carry on a most profitable business without capital.

Our Aluminum Combined Pen and Pencil Holder is a Brand New Article, novel and useful in a good many ways. Makes money for the dealer and agents, and pleases all who buy and use it. Is a quick seller. Any one can sell it, in fact it sells itself when and wherever properly shown. Is used by LADIES as well as GENTLEMEN and is a prime favorite with TEACHERS and SCHOOL CHILDREN. Use it once and you will not be without it. Order a sample and you will surely want a dozen, which is only enough to go around in an ordinary family with a few extra for friends. By sliding it on an ordinary lead pencil it makes a perfect pen holder. When used as pen holder it is automatic, ejecting the pen by sliding either way on pencil. Makes a fine desk tool as it can be used either as a pen or pencil and will not roll even on a moderately slanting surface. Greatest tool for school desk. Does away with pencil or pen holder as we have both in one. As a Pencil Holder it has no equal. It will hold pencil perfectly in vest or inside coat pocket or any other place which is not too thick for clasp to go over. Always on your pencil. Stays wherever you place it. No matter if your pockets are full of holes; it holds your pencil securely. Anyone can sell these holders in fact they sell themselves. Send to-day, don't delay. **Address FAMILY HERALD, Augusta, Maine.**

How The Conventions Will Meet.

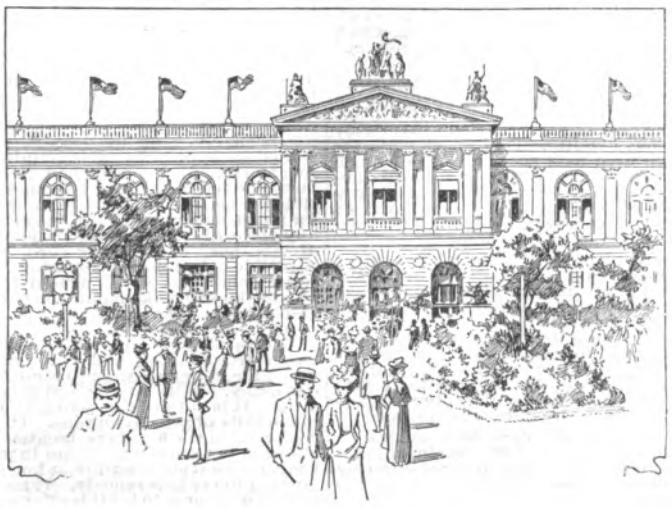
WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



THERE is no American who lives that does not feel his blood tingle as the quadrennial contest approaches which elects another President of the United States of America. The greatest and most powerful office on earth is to be filled and it will interest all readers of COMFORT to know by just what method this is done.

Our Presidents are not elected directly by the people but under the Constitution indirectly. That is, in each state there are nominated sets of electors for whom the citizens vote; and on a given date these electors meet and vote for a President and Vice President. The returns are then made up and sent by messenger to Washington. In due course of time both houses in Congress meet in joint convention and with the presiding officer of the Senate acting as Chairman, the envelopes are opened and vote of the states announced alphabetically. Tabulation is made and announcement of the people's choice made in due and legal form.

Then the convention dissolves and at a later date the President is inaugurated (on the 4th of March, following) in front of the capitol at Washington and enters his duties for four years. Ever since the Constitution was adopted there have been two parties of great strength as there is in this country. The Revolution brought out many men of talent and great popularity and Washington, Jefferson, Munroe and the Adamses were nominated and elected rather on public wish than party lines. In fact, in the earlier days the candidate receiving the largest number of votes in the Electoral college became President, while the next lower was usually accepted for the second place.



THE PHILADELPHIA BUILDING.

It was not until the time of President Jackson that party organization became perfected and the present system of voting for electors who tacitly agreed to vote in the college for party nominees developed. Up to that time electors were free to vote for whom they pleased after due deliberation, although it was always practically known whom they favored.



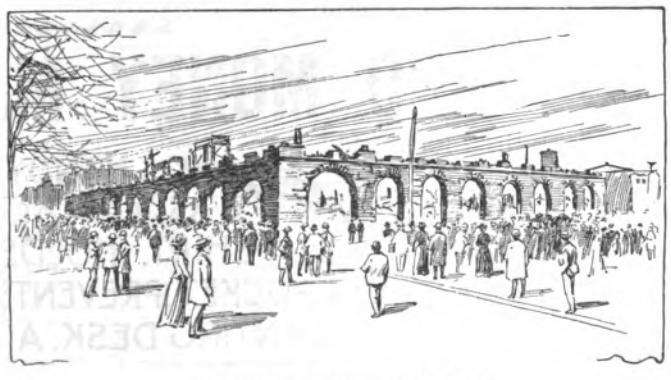
HON. PERRY S. HEATH.

For some time after the party leaders in Congress met in caucus and designated whom the standard bearers should be for each party.

Free speech and dislike of dictation brought about party conventions which now vote as representative of each party until choice is made by each party of a candidate. In almost every state the modified Australian ballot system prevails and party organization is recognized in the formalities which have to be gone through. So that the custom which gradually grew up of organizing now exists in legal form and gives a definite state and legality to all nominations made, where formerly was no responsibility.

In the present system each of the great parties has a National Committee which is formed by giving each state one member. They conduct, through their chosen chairmen and small executive committees, the whole campaign for their respective parties. Their existence is for four years and their delegations to the National conventions select their successors in each state.

The committee meets and decides on the claims of the residents of various cities and finally votes in what city the convention shall be held and its date. The call is then issued inviting all voters agreeing in certain principles set forth to elect delegates to this National Convention. In each state four delegates-at-large and two delegates from each congressional district are selected with alternates. Thus the representation of each state in the convention is just double its representation in the House and Senate.



THE BURNED KANSAS CITY HALL.

On the date appointed the conventions meet and organization is made. In due time nominating speeches are made and ballots taken. Finally the party's candidate for President is announced and then follows a similar process for selection of a candidate for Vice President, who are nominated on a platform supposed to represent the principles of the party and which are read in the convention.

After the convention has adjourned a chosen committee is sent to announce verbally to the candidate the result. He thanks them and later declares himself in a "letter of acceptance," which announces his ideas. When both parties have gone through this process the campaign commences.



SECRETARY C. F. DICK.

Conventions are the rallying places of great political leaders and their followers from all over the Union. For days and nights the streets of the convention city are ablaze with color and lights and echo to the tread of marching political companies and delegations; and to the blare of trumpet and boom of cannon. In no other place can be found the excitement and enthusiasm of an American city during a National convention in its limits.

A Republican convention elects its candidates on a simple majority but the Democrats adhere to what is called the two-thirds rule, which requires a two-thirds vote to make a choice. Since the days of the heroes of the Revolution few of our great statesmen have been selected as candidates. A person generally of less talent but more "available" is selected. That means a sensible, vigorous and "magnetic" man, not too well known, is sought out. Once in a while a wave of enthusiasm brings out a war hero as a candidate.

All the important National conventions have now been arranged for—May 9, the Populist at Sioux Falls, S. D., and on the same date the middle-of-the-road Populists at Cincinnati. June 19, the Republican at Philadelphia. June 27, the Prohibitionists at Chicago. July 4, the Democratic at Kansas City, Mo., and on the same day the American Political League at Boston. President McKinley is certain of a nomination by acclamation by the Republicans; while Mr. Bryan seems equally certain of a similar honor from the Democrats. In neither party does there seem to be a choice for a candidate for the second place.

There is a present chance that Admiral Dewey or some other "Gold Democrat" may obtain sufficient following to prevent the necessary two-thirds vote; but at present writing this seems unlikely.

The Republican convention will meet in the building in which the International Export Exhibition was held last year. The city from its proximity to other large centers, will be over crowded. Chairman Hanna, who conducted the last campaign for McKinley so successfully, may not be physically strong enough to conduct this summer's work, in which case his mantle will undoubtedly fall on the shoulders of Hon. Perry S. Heath, the able Assistant Postmaster General and experienced politician; or, on those of Representative C. F. Dick, who is the Secretary of the Republican National Committee and long identified with the conduct of Ohio politics.

On the Democratic side the management will practically be the same as in the campaign of 1896, should Mr. Bryan be nominated. If, however, by any chance any other person should receive the great honor, Chairman Jones will retire and some friend of the nominee's be appointed.

The convention hall at Kansas City in which the Democrats are to meet July 4th, was burned to the ground on the morning of April 4th. The building is to be immediately rebuilt and will undoubtedly be ready for the convention. Our sketch is from a photograph taken of the ruins. This convention is the first one ever held west of the Mississippi Valley and will attract vast attention and probably attendance, although Kansas City is not a "hotel town." It is anticipated there will be an attendance of not less than thirty thousand visitors while the hotels cannot contain a third of this number. It is felt that it will be unique in spectacular appearance and demonstration.

EVERYBODY WEARS COLLAR BUTTONS.

Send us only 5c. and we send you **Six** Gold Plated lever collar buttons, either for Gentlemen or Ladies. This can only be done to introduce our great catalogue of Novelties. **5 cents for 6.** Write to-day to COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

How to Cross the Ocean Cheaply and Comfortably.

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5.)

omy, "each dollar which they can properly save in the expenses of the journey." There are some economies which do not save, in the long run. No one can get the best results from travel—whether the results desired be profit or mere pleasure—unless in good physical condition. It does not pay to economize by eating food which is unpalatable or lacking in nourishment, and it is no saving to walk in order to save car or carriage fare, until one is too worn out to study intelligently the things which one has come to see. Better see fewer things and get all the good there is in them.

For this reason I would have a steamer chair while crossing the ocean. The steamer's deck will be provided with a plentiful supply of canvas camp stools and more or less comfortable small, folding, wooden chairs, but the long folding steamer chairs on which, when put in position one can lie almost as comfortably as on a couch, are private property. These can be bought in the large shops of any city, and usually in small shops near the ocean steamer wharves. The prices range from about $2.50 upwards. If you have your own chair you have to give it away when you get to port, or have it stored or pawn it, as you do your wraps. I have always been able to hire one after I got on board, of one of the stewards, paying him about five shillings, $1.25 of American money. If you have a chair and give it away, give it to one of the stewards. He will make it a source of income in the way I have mentioned. In any case do not neglect to give these men something in tips in the course of the voyage. The sum need not be large. A quarter now and then will go a good ways and bring back ten times its value in service. This is not extortion. It is a legitimate part of your traveling expenses, and should be reckoned with beforehand as such.

But speaking of steamer chairs, one more word. I cannot imagine anything more delightful to look forward to or back upon, than to lie on a blanket-spread steamer chair for ten long restful days, with nothing to look at but water and sky.

Some one may say, "But I shall be too seasick to find anything delightful." Perhaps so, but not surely. You may not be sick at all, or at least, not enough to amount to anything if you do not give way to it. I have never yet been seasick enough to cause me to lose any one of the four meals of every day I have been on board ship. This may in part be my good fortune, but I do not believe it is wholly that. I always take some simple laxative medicine for two or three days before sailing, and on the day I go on board am moderately careful what I eat and drink. Eat all you want to, but don't mix too many kinds. Don't drink beer at all nor too much whiskey.

I have found that if I am going to be sick at all—and I imagine this would hold true of other people—it will be when I first get out of my berth on the first morning at sea. The air of a state-room is always bad, at best, at that time, and any one is lucky who can stay in the state-room that first morning long enough to dress, without becoming sick. And like many other things, nausea is easier to start than to stop. Experience has taught me when I go to bed the first night, to put my clothing in the berth, or so near it that I can reach it easily. Then, in the morning, I dress me just as completely as I am able, still lying in the berth; then get down onto the floor, hustle the last two or three hitches which cannot be made in the bunk, and make a dash for the open deck. Don't stop to wash; you can come down for that later. Stay in the open air for half an hour. If you feel at all squeamish get out where you can face the wind—there is pretty sure to be enough of it—and stay there. Don't go to the extreme bow or stern of the ship; you will feel the motion a great deal worse there—and I do not believe you will be seasick long. Don't worry if your toilet is not quite perfect. No one will notice it. Most of the people on deck at that time—probably they did not hurry out into the air as you have done—will be too much occupied in leaning over the railing, to look at you, and if they do cast a glance at you between gulps will be too disgusted at your not being sick, too, to distinguish whether you have on clothes or a meal sack. I cannot imagine anything more aggravating than to be seasick and see some one else who is not.

Another thing, don't brace yourself against the motion of the vessel as if it were an enemy. Rather try and feel that it is a great, strong friend under whose protection you are glad to be. Too many inexperienced sailors, when they feel the steamer roll, or sink in the trough between two gigantic waves, instantly brace themselves stiff as posts in opposition. Don't do that. Let your knees bend and your body sway a little. Go with the motion, and not against it, and you will not only ward off seasickness, but you will learn to enjoy one of the greatest pleasures of a sea voyage; and come to know that the great ocean is a loving friend and not a buffeting foe.



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This shows the machine closed and used as a center table, stand or desk.

THE BURDICK has every MODERN IMPROVEMENT; EVERY GOOD POINT OF EVERY HIGH GRADE MACHINE MADE, WITH THE DEFECTS OF NONE. MADE BY THE BEST MAKER IN AMERICA FROM THE BEST MATERIAL MONEY CAN BUY. SOLID QUARTER SAWED OAK DROP DESK CABINET, PIANO POLISHED. One illustration shows machine closed, (head dropping from sight) to be used as a center table, stand or desk; the other open with full length table and head in place for sewing. Four fancy drawers, latest 1899 skeleton frame, carved, paneled, embossed and decorated cabinet finish, finest nickel drawer pulls' rests on 4 casters, ball bearing adjustable treadle genuine Smyth iron stand. Finest large High Arm head, positive four motion feed, self threading vibrating shuttle, automatic bobbin winder, adjustable bearings, patent tension liberator, improved loose wheel, adjustable presser foot, improved shuttle carrier, patent needle bar, patent dress guard, head is handsomely decorated and ornamented and beautifully Nickel Trimmed. GUARANTEED the lightest running, most durable and nearest noiseless machine made. Every known attachment is furnished and our Free Instruction Book tells just how anyone can run it and do either plain or any kind of fancy work. A 20-YEAR BINDING GUARANTEE is sent with every machine. IT COSTS YOU NOTHING to see and examine this machine, compare it with those your storekeeper sells at $40.00 to $60.00, and then if convinced you are saving $25.00 to $40.00, pay your freight agent the $15.50. WE TO RETURN YOUR $15.50 if at any time within three months you say you are not satisfied. ORDER TODAY. DON'T DELAY. (Sears, Roebuck & Co. are thoroughly reliable.—Editor.)



This illustration shows the machine open, ready for use.

Address, **SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO. (Inc.) Chicago, Ill.**

JULY ~1900

PRICE 5 CENTS

VOLXII NO.9 MN 141

COMFORT

THE KEY TO A MILLION AND A QUARTER HOMES

NEW YORK AUGUSTA, MAINE. BOSTON

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SUN.	MON.	TUES.	WED.	THURS.	FRI.	SAT.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	F. Q. 4	F. M. 12	L. Q. 18	N. M. 26





Telling one of Comfort's Prize Stories.

PRIZE STORIES.

The following conditions govern the awarding of cash prizes for Nutshell Stories, and the manuscripts of such writers only as have complied with all these requirements will receive consideration.

All the necessary particulars being here clearly set forth, it will be useless for anyone to seek further information or personal favors by addressing the editor, as such letters cannot be answered.

1. *Only persons who are regular paid up yearly subscribers to "Comfort" and who send with every manuscript at least two yearly subscribers (together with 50 cents to pay for each subscriber so sent) may compete for the prizes.*

2. *All contributions must have the number of words they contain plainly noted thereon in addition to the writer's full name and address with nom de plume if desired; must be written on one side of the paper only, enclosed in the same envelope as the letter and remittance for new subscriptions, and addressed to* EDITOR NUTSHELL STORY CLUB *care of* COMFORT, AUGUSTA, MAINE.

3. *All stories must be* strictly original *with the contributors, and must not have appeared in print before. Competitors may write upon any subject, whether based upon fact, fancy or fiction—of adventure, love, war, peace; of city or country life, or of experiences on land or sea—but no story must contain more than* 2,000 *or less than* 1,000 *words.*

4. NO MANUSCRIPT WILL BE RETURNED UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES AND COMPETITORS SHOULD THEREFORE RETAIN A COPY OF WHAT THEY SEND.

5. *From* $5 *to* $20 *will be paid for stories, and remittances will be sent by check as soon as awards have been made.*

No premiums will be given for subscriptions sent in under this Short Story Prize Offer.

The Publishers of "Comfort" reserve the right to purchase at their established rates any stories submitted under the foregoing offer, which failed to secure a prize.

☞ *Writers who hear nothing of their manuscript may at the end of* 90 *days after submitting them to "Comfort" feel at liberty to offer their stories for sale elsewhere.*

PRIZE WINNERS FOR JULY.

George Smith, First Prize.
F. E. Burnham, Second Prize.
Burton McPhail, Third Prize.
Katherine Stagg, Fourth Prize.
Harold Grantham, Fifth Prize.

HIS COMRADE.

A Story of the Philippine War.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY GEORGE SMITH.

Copyright, 1900, by W. H. Gannett, Publisher.



THE city of Iloilo, in the island of Panay, is, to Manila, the most important sea-port in the Philippine Islands. As the harbor of Iloilo furnished safe anchorage for American gunboats it was easy to keep the city garrisoned, but the mountainous character of the island itself made it difficult for the troops to make progress against the insurgents who had taken refuge in the interior.

The two other seaports of Panay are Concepsion and Capiz. A plan had been formulated by the American commander in Panay to send gunboats from Iloilo to each of these ports, bearing strong detachments of troops, and then from these points three columns of soldiers were to march simultaneously inland from the three ports, to concentrate upon Pasi, the insurgent headquarters near the center of the island.

It was necessary for the success of this plan that it be undertaken with the greatest secrecy possible, and that the destination of the gunboats when they left Iloilo be not suspected.

* * * * * * *

Two petty officers on shore leave from the gunboat Cassandra had been lingering to laugh and talk with a handsome *mestiza* woman in the half breed quarter of Iloilo. One of the men had left the house and was waiting in the street.

"Come along, Johnson," he said impatiently.

"Go on! I'll catch up with you!" the man in the house shouted through the open door. Alone with the *mestiza* woman he stretched out his arms to her.

"Ramona!" he said.

The woman raised her hand and waved him back.

"No, senor," she said.

"Promise to marry me, before I go!" he said.

The woman raised her beautiful eyes and looked the officer in the face for a full minute.

"Yes;" she said at last.

A moment later the man was running down the street to overtake his companion. The two men were comrades in the Pacific, just as they had been schoolmates and friends back in America.

"Johnson," said the man who had started on ahead, after the two officers had walked side by side in silence for a little way, "don't make a fool of yourself."

"You mind your own business," said the man called Johnson, with an oath, "and I'll mind mine."

After all, they reached the quay before the Cassandra's boat was ready to put off for the ship, and waited there, surrounded by the crowd of natives, half-breeds, Spaniards and Americans who gathered there at the waterside at that hour. A *mestiza* peddler selling native fruits approached the two men and tried to make them buy. Flint heard the man say to Johnson, "I have some finer fruit a little farther down the quay, which I would like to show the senor." A few words added in a lower tone and quickly, Flint did not catch, but when he looked around again, a few minutes later, he saw Johnson several rods away, and the native talking to him eagerly. Afterwards he remembered this.

A week later the plans for the expedition against Pasi had been perfected. Two gunboats had quietly slipped out of the harbor of Iloilo in the darkness, and had headed northward. They would reach their destination the next night, and at midnight the three separate companies would start inland. Flint and Johnson were to go with the detachment from Iloilo. The latter had obtained shore leave in the evening and was to join the troops in the city.

In the confusion of disembarking and starting in the darkness Flint was the only man who noticed that Johnson did not report. Perhaps he would not have noticed his absence either had it not been that after he had landed and was waiting on the quay for the line to form, a *mestiza*, the fruit seller of the week before, passing close to him had crushed a scrap of paper into his hand. When he came where he could see, the officer read the words scribbled on the paper:

"Flint—I have cut it all. You'll say I am a fool. May be. Anyway it's done. Please do one thing for me. Try and make it as easy for mother as you can, when you go back home. She cares for me. Tell her I was killed, if you can, not that I ran away. If—you know who I mean—back home there had been different, perhaps I wouldn't have done this. It's no use now, though. J.—"

The troops lined up and marched out of Iloilo for Pasi, just as at the same time the other columns were marching from Concepsion and Capiz. Four hours ahead of the force from Iloilo the man Johnson had gone, speeding over the same line of march, following the route laid out for him to the camp of the insurgent leader.

* * * * * *

Two days before the movement against Pasi was begun a little, wizened, old Montes man had died in his hut in the mountain fastnesses of Panay. This man's home, like those of all his tribe, had been an armful of dry palm leaves thrown over three sticks stuck into the ground; his only clothing had been a rag of cocoanut fibre cloth tied about his loins. He had never heard of God, or America. To this man Spaniards and Americans were all one,—white heathen—and yet this man's death was destined to make succeed or fail the plans of men who never would even know of his existence.

He was no chief of his tribe, but only a Montes man; but being dead, by the sacred law of his tribe some one must be slain to bear his spirit company to that other world, of which they knew nothing except that no person could enter it unattended.

("We found that the Monteses had a number of peculiar ideas. Among other things they believed that when one of their number died he needed company to prevent his growing lonely on the long journey which lay before him. Accordingly the relatives of a dead person were expected to sally forth, armed with lances or long *machetes*, and endeavor to supply this want by killing the first human being whom they met." Dean Worcester's book on the Philippine Islands.)

For two days and a night the sons and brother of the dead man had traversed the forest, and the freshly sharpened points of their lances had been dampened only by the dew. Their journey had brought them through the defiles of their own mountain country, down into the low land, across a river, and into the forest beyond it.

And there, walking stealthily down a path beneath the trees, lighted by moonlight which filtered through the branches, they met, face to face, a white man hurrying up from the sea.

A minute later the law of blood had been appeased, and the Montes men had turned back, eager to reach their homes and the feasts which their women would have prepared for them against their coming. They cared not if the man they had killed be white or black, Spaniard or American. He meant nothing to them but the necessary sacrifice to satisfy a rite; the performance of a duty.

There, in the path, a few hours later, the soldiers found the Officer Johnson's body. Flint, at the head of a reconnoitering party sent on ahead, found it.

"He was one of our scouts," one man said, looking down at the dead body, "who pushed too far ahead, and was killed."

Flint did not dispute the statement; but he sent all the men away for a few minutes, to see if they could get any trace of the enemy.

When he was alone with the dead man, he knelt down beside him and thrust his hand inside the soldier's blouse.

"I thought so," he said to himself, as he drew from beneath the jacket a paper from the *mestiza* woman in Iloilo commending the bearer to the insurgent leader as a man who had valuable information to impart.

"Thank God," he said, "we came in time!" and then, looking down again at the dead man, "Poor fellow! God knows, perhaps he did not mean to do it. This cursed climate gets into a man's head so he doesn't half know what he is doing."

Then, looking to see that the men were not yet coming back, he dug a little hole beside the path, and tearing the two letters into bits, dropped the pieces into the hole, pushed the earth back and stamped it down upon the fragments.

When the men came back, bringing with them a Montes spear which they had found by the path, he said, "Take up the body on a litter of sticks, and carry it back until you meet the troops."

And so it came about that when, weeks afterwards, back in a New England town a widowed mother put on deeper black because her son, a soldier in the Philippines, was dead, the grief of it to her heart was softened because the commander of the American forces in Panay at that time had caused to be written to her, "Your son was killed at the head of his company, in a daring scouting expedition."

And Flint, his comrade, remembering the words in the letter, "Try and make it as easy for mother as you can," never added anything to make the commander's statement more explicit.

DOCTOR RUPPEL'S PATIENT.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY F. E. BURNHAM.

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AT that time Philip Craig occupied Room 27 in the Studio Building on St. James Street. A hundred or more students and teachers of the Conservatory lived there and on the whole managed to live a happy, Bohemian sort of life.

Craig was a man of peculiar temperament—highly nervous, imaginative and withall a gifted psychic.

One evening late in the fall of '87 four young men were passing a social hour with Craig; all were connected with the Conservatory. Craig was seated at the piano, delighting his friends with a masterly rendering of Gottschalk's Last Hope. No sound was heard save the music of that exquisite song which has entranced so many; the interpretation was perfect, the running passages dropping from the tips of his fingers like pearls, stringing themselves together as they fell. The lights burned dimly and no face was distinctly visible. The air was heavy with the perfume of roses and a slight odor of violets was noticeable.

Suddenly, while Craig was executing the final trills and cadenzas, his face paled so perceptibly that those present noted it, though as stated above, the lights were dim; a tremor shook his frame and with a despairing cry he fell into the arms of those who had sprung to his assistance.

A physician was hastily summoned and Craig was immediately placed in bed, the doctor affirming that the young man's case was very grave. And such it proved to be; for from that hour Craig's mind was a blank as far as the past was concerned. He was as a babe just born into the world, the past, nothing, the future a wonderland of possibilities. In an instant he had lost all past learning, and his cunning at the keyboard had vanished. Strangely enough, his command of language was not impaired in the least. Physicians said that there was absolutely no hope of the past coming back to him, and Craig, who knew no past, was content for a season to let the matter rest so.

"Make the best of a bad matter," said one physician, discussing the case with one of Craig's friends, "have him begin life over again; he is yet a young man and the manner in which he grasps thoughts indicates that learning again will be an easy matter."

And so Craig did begin life over again, studying the same branches that claimed his attention twenty years previous, and resuming his work at the piano as a pupil at the bottom of the ladder.

Years passed, and Craig made rapid progress, hastened, no doubt, by the hope held out to him by one physician—that with the knowledge at his command that was his when the veil was drawn, that past would declare itself once more.

Constantly were trifles coming to pass that seemed to have a close connection with Craig's earlier life, and they all tended to strengthen the doctor's and his own conviction that some day the curtain hiding the past would be drawn one side.

Many changes had taken place at the Conservatory during the past ten years; naturally all the former pupils were gone, and only two of the old professors remained. It was from the latter that Craig's physician learned when Craig, according to their recollection, stood again in his art as he stood that memorable night when he was stricken. It was then that Dr. Ruppel attempted to restore the past to Philip Craig.

Through diligent inquiry, Dr. Ruppel learned of the whereabouts of one of Craig's friends who was with him that night in the fall of '87. From him the other three were located, and his proposed method of restoring Craig to himself was duly made clear to the four.

Plaintive music and the odor of roses and of violets caused Craig's eyes to light up, and at such times he said that he could almost penetrate the mist that obscured the past. This susceptibility was greatly increased at night when the lights burned dimly. Dr. Ruppel believed that these phenomena bore directly upon the case and its final mastery, and presently he made use of them, with what results will be shortly seen.

It may be well to state just here that Craig knew nothing of the elaborate arrangements through which Dr. Ruppel hoped to bring about the restoration of his patient.

Questioning the four gentlemen who were with Craig that night, Dr. Ruppel was enabled to put Craig's former room in the Studio Building in much the same condition it was at that time.

It was the twenty-third of November, decidedly raw and wintry. A little after seven o'clock that evening, four gentlemen might have been seen walking rapidly up St. James Street, all earnestly engaged in conversation. Before the Studio Building they halted and were shortly admitted and shown to the room which Dr. Ruppel had arranged. The doctor was already there.

"Gentlemen," said the physician, "we may expect Herr Craig at precisely eight o'clock. Be seated in much the same positions you were in when he was stricken in this room. I scarcely know the part I shall take this night. He may not notice me at all after meeting with you; if not, I shall remain silent. I hope that such will be the case."

On the piano stood a vase of roses and violets were on the mantel. The lights were dim and those present scarcely discernible.

A light rap at the door told of the coming of Craig. The doctor retreating behind the portieres, one of those present threw open the door.

As Craig stood before the open door, the perfume of the flowers reached him. In a bewildered way he placed his hand on his forehead, a smile slightly parting his lips.

"Come in, Phil," said the one who had

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opened the door, "here we are waiting for you, old fellow. There is the piano and we are famished for a breath of the divine music. Favor us, Phil."

As one in a dream, Craig advanced to the piano, his eyes sparkling with a strange brilliancy. Seated at the piano he looked restlessly about the room for an instant. Touched a chord and modulated into another key, closing with a brilliant cadenza.

Nervously Craig quitted the piano, striding across the room and turning the lights still lower, returned to the instrument, stooping over the roses and violets as he passed.

Once again Craig touched the keys, solemnly and with an intense feeling that inspired his hearers with a conception of music which they had never known in the past. It seemed as though he were searching for a chord which he was unable to sound at once; from key to key he passed, modulating through a series of chords which revealed the master's hand. Suddenly he bent forward and with a wonderful cadenza that startled his hearers, Craig swept the keyboard, and pausing—gently touched the opening chord of Gottschalk's Last Hope, after passing the introduction.

Never before that night had Craig played with such brilliancy and passion. It seemed as though he were of some other world and that he was communing with them in the language of the soul. His rendering of Gottschalk's famous composition was something never to be forgotten.

Those who saw Craig's face said that he was as one transfigured, and the wonderful light in his eyes became more wonderful as he played.

When he had finished he sat for a moment with bowed head. He was weeping.

"I have seen the past," he said at length, "I have seen it—and it has vanished once more."

Dr. Ruppel failed in a measure, but in the measure that he succeeded, he brought joy and peace to Philip Craig. Craig was asked one evening why the Last Hope was his favorite composition.

"Because its strains open the portals guarding the past," he said, "and I am permitted to know for a brief period the peace and happiness of those departed days."

Of an evening one who chances to pass Philip Craig's home may hear the sorrowful strains of the Last Hope, Craig's fine tenor voice carrying the melody, but though the first part breathes of peace, the closing measures are of despair—that fateful curtain is hiding Craig's past.

Dr. Ruppel has made a deep study of Philip Craig's case during the past two years and his conclusions, though by no means to be accepted as absolutely true deductions, seem logical.

"The brain is composed of countless millions of minute cells," said the doctor, discussing Craig's case one evening, "as doubtless you already are aware; these cells are constantly being awakened to activity through the occurrence of events. These awakened cells constitute the mind, and the ability to quicken the same cells after the event has passed, constitutes the memory. Ordinarily these cells are more or less easily aroused and the past comes before the mind again, but through over-taxing of the brain, these cells may become diseased and fail to readily respond; the resulting condition is commonly called a poor memory.

"In the case of Philip Craig, over-work produced a complete collapse of the functions of the brain. The past vanished in an instant and Craig realized the past no more than a new-born babe. At the same time, however, these same cells were not absolutely dead. Under certain conditions these could be aroused and these conditions were fulfilled that night when I conducted my first practical experiment in the Studio Building.

"The odor of roses and violets disturbed these cells; the tones of the piano still more; the bringing together of those who were connected with the past increased their susceptibility: finally, at the most favorable moment—when the lights burned dimly, as they did that night when the curtain was drawn, hiding the past, all of these agencies acted at once. The cells which were quivering with life, yet unable to respond under the influence of any one of these factors, awoke—the mist hiding the past vanished and Craig beheld the past once more. While the music of that masterpiece lasted the cells continued to respond, but as the tones died away the cells relapsed into their lethargy and the past faded from view.

"Strangely enough," continued the physician, "certain cells governing his command of language were not impaired in the least, save during the first few weeks following his collapse in '87. This peculiarity is undoubtedly due to the fact that these cells had not been taxed to so great an extent, and consequently had little or no part in the paralysis which affects the rest."

"But how do you account for the fact that Craig studied and learned again?" asked one.

"That is easily answered," replied the physician, "the cells which made up the past, embracing memory of events and study, comprised but a fractional part of the millions of cells at Craig's disposal. Additional study and the memory of things subsequent to that memorable night, merely meant the bringing into activity of new cells.

"Philip Craig's case I consider hopeless, so far as his ever being able to permanently recall the years prior to '87. Those cells in use at that time are too seriously affected to return to their former state. Gradually will it become more and more difficult to arouse them to activity until finally they will utterly fail. Craig's experiences during the past two years indicate that such will be the case."

Philip Craig has told much of his past to a stenographer during these periods when he was able to see his past, and these records have proved a source of much pleasure to himself. Presently they will be the only evidence of his earlier life at his disposal.

THE MAN WHO SHIVERED.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY BURTON MCPHAIL.

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It WAS grandfather's night for telling a story and early in the evening the young people, and older ones, too, gathered about the old fire-place, confident that a pleasant hour was in store.

Before the great logs which grandfather persisted in burning, though the old-fashioned fire-place was an affair of half a century or more ago, a dozen great apples spluttered, sending forth their delicious odor as their color deepened.

"A true story," said grandfather, removing his pipe from his mouth.

"A real true one," interrupted Tom, cracking a walnut.

"Yes, Tom, a real true story," replied the story-teller, "a story of early days, long before the days of the railroad and telegraph; when the swiftest messenger was the horseman.

"There was to be an execution at Portsmouth; a young woman was to be hanged and the sheriff's warrant read 'during the noon hour.' There was a serious doubt in the minds of those conversant with the evidence as to the guilt of the prisoner, and the day prior to the execution a horseman was dispatched to Concord, bearing a paper signed by every merchant and all the leading men of Portsmouth, praying for a pardon, or at least a reprieve.

"At twelve o'clock the horseman started for Concord, thirty miles away, mounted upon a swift horse, expecting to see the governor and return during the evening. Night came, however, and as the evening passed and he came not, apprehension was felt lest some mishap had occurred which would prevent the return of the messenger in time to stay the hand of the sheriff.

"Midnight having passed, and no news of the horseman received, a second paper was circulated and signed by those who had affixed their signatures to the first."

"Did they wake the people up in the middle of the night?" queried Tom.

"Yes, Tom, and there wasn't a soul of them that grumbled.

"At four o'clock in the morning the second horseman started, digging his spurs into the horse's sides and quickly leaving the town behind. Twenty miles away he learned the reason of the non-return of the first horseman; found that he had been thrown from his horse and seriously injured, lying unconscious at a farmhouse. Without pausing he rode onward and at seven o'clock was at the capital, being admitted at once to the executive's private room.

"At eight o'clock he had received the governor's decision in the form of a reprieve for the prisoner, and at five minutes past the hour he was mounted again and away.

"Meantime the morning was passing at Portsmouth and preparations were being made for the execution and at ten o'clock all was in readiness for the final scene.

"Anticipating possible delay in the return of the messenger, some one suggested that men be stationed at intervals along the road toward Concord within sight and shouting distance of each other, so that the looked for good news might be sent along the line faster than the horseman could carry it. And at eleven o'clock a line of men reached from the prison-yard down the Concord road for a distance of three miles.

"Within the prison the sheriff was hastening preparations, as was his legal right, so that the execution might take place precisely at the hour of twelve, though at any time during the noon hour would have fulfilled the state's command.

"At quarter of twelve the solemn procession, made up of those who were to witness the execution and the prisoner, started for the prison-yard and three minutes later the young woman was on the scaffold, the clergyman speaking with her for the last time.

"'Wait until the hour of one before carrying out the sentence,' pleaded a citizen, 'word from Concord must arrive by that time, sheriff.'

"The cold March wind blew sharply across the prison-yard and the sheriff shivered.

"'I'm cold and hungry,' said he, adjusting the black-cap, 'and I'll allow no wench to interfere with my comfort. I spring the trap at twelve o'clock.'

"Meanwhile, the messenger was galloping over the road, making every effort to reach Portsmouth before the noon hour had come. The long ride showed plainly its effect on the animal, and as he plunged onward, he staggered from time to time, but as often as he faltered his rider drove the spurs into his flanks and the grim battle against time was more grimly pressed.

"At ten minutes of twelve he was within four miles of the prison; five minutes later the last of the long line of men that reached down the Portsmouth road saw him coming, saw him wave the reprieve as he passed mid a cloud of dust, and the good word flew ahead of the rider.

"'He comes! Reprieve!'

"From man to man the word was shouted and at last, just as the bells were ringing the hour of twelve, the man at the prison-gate rushed in and announced the coming of the reprieve.

"He announced it, but the word came too late, for scarcely had he entered the prison yard when the sheriff sprung the trap—the woman was dead.

"Suddenly, at the word of the sentry, the sheriff was seized with a terrible chill; he shivered so that he nearly fell from the scaffold. Mechanically he carried out the remainder of his duties, shivering more violently as the minutes passed.

"A week passed and the sheriff continued to shiver and shake, and physicians were unable to abate it. Added to this, a hunger which he was unable to satisfy, continually gnawed at his stomach.

"At the store he ordered the best of dinners and they were duly prepared, but though he ate heartily, they failed to satisfy the craving. He arose from the table with a full stomach, but the hunger remained.

"The spring passed and summer came, but the summer sun failed to warm the sheriff who could not wait; on the hottest days he crept to the store, a heavy overcoat buttoned closely about him: shivering he came and shivering he returned, a wreck of a man.

"One morning late in the fall of the same year of the execution, he entered a store intent upon purchasing provisions; two men were conversing.

"'Sheriff Parton made a sad mistake when he swung that woman into eternity, Robert,' said one, standing so that he failed to see the entrance of the ex-sheriff.

"'Yes, it is true,' said the other, likewise ignorant of his coming, 'Turner, who was fatally injured last night has confessed to the deed——'

"'Sh!,' said the other catching sight of the sheriff.

"The man who shivered had opened his lips to give his order, but the words froze upon them. A fearful chill seized him; he buttoned his coat more closely about him, turned without purchasing and crept home. A week from that day he was a dead man. Physicians affirmed that he had shivered so long and violently that the heart finally ceased to perform its work."

While grandfather had been talking the fire had grown brighter, and when he had finished it was uncomfortably warm about the fireplace, but somehow every one shivered just a little as he resumed his pipe, and Tom stirred the fire.

LOST—A SEVEN ROOM FLAT.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY KATHERINE STAGG.

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HERE, Bird!"

"Yes, dear!"

"Well, what do you think? The stupid old business is settled? and we can start for home. Aren't you jolly glad?"

"Indeed I am, dear!"

"I have tickets for the St. Paul, and she sails the day after tomorrow."

And Ned Bentley picked up his fluffy little wife and waltzed her around the room. It was a rather undignified performance; but they were so young, and manifestly so happy that even the typical stern British matron might have forgiven them their antics. When they were quite out of breath, Ned, handsome, tall, debonair, deposited his laughing partner on the divan and struck an attitude before her.

"I've just made ten thousand dollars clear out of this trip—that was a totally unexpected windfall; and, although we have been married a year and have had to live in hotels, now, at last, we are going back to dear old New York, and best of all to our own little flat, our home that has been waiting three months for us. I think with all that, I've got a right to be somewhat foolish."

"Well, if being foolish is your way of showing gratitude, I'll have to try and bear up under it, I suppose." And she laughed mischievously. No wonder they called her Bird, for her laugh was a tinkling, gay little ripple that was well calculated to make anybody foolish about her.

"You have no idea how funny it seems to me that we have a flat of our own all furnished and ready to live in, and that I've never seen it," said Ned. "It will seem like a discovery, or a Christmas present, won't it, dear?"

"It will seem like home, Ned, our home. And say, Ned, I have the loveliest Turkish corner fixed up in the back parlor, and everything is done but hanging the pictures. I left some of your pastels to be framed just around the corner; I wonder if the dealer thinks I'm dead. And listen, Ned, I'm not going to be like some women, I am going to let you smoke in any room in the flat."

"Sensible little girl! and I will buy you new curtains whenever the smoke ruins those in use. So that jumps one of the first hurdles in married life. But seriously, dear, I know we are going to be absurdly happy, the only thing I am afraid of is that you will be lonesome and get homesick for your Western friends."

"Well, Ned," she answered, "if New York is just one quarter as nice as you think, I ought to like it. Remember, I was only there four days, and only think how busy I was; it all seemed very big and very grand, but, to tell the truth, I was so rushed, my poor little feather brain—you know that is Dad's favorite name for me—was in such a whirl that I hardly remember anything. No, Ned, I am not afraid of being homesick, but I am going to confess one thing; when I got your cable to come over to London as your business would keep you longer than you thought, and I had hurried so to get our home ready for you, and then to think of leaving it and coming across all alone! Well, dear, then I did break down and cried awfully and for fully twenty

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minutes. Ned, I was sorry that—that I had ever left home," her voice broke ever so little, but Ned's arm was around her in a second, and she gave a contented little nestle as he answered, "Poor little pigeon! it was abominably rough on you, but I couldn't do without you any longer, and I will try awfully hard to make up to you for that bad twenty minutes. And say, dear, it hasn't been much better since we have been here together, that confounded business has monopolized me so entirely that I have had to neglect everything else. By the way, dear, it occurred to me last night that I had forgotten just what street our flat is on."

"Why, it's," she replied quickly, then suddenly stopped with a little pucker of the eyebrows, "oh yes, it's—let me see—oh bother, I never could remember figures; it's uptown, right near the Park, you can see the trees from the windows," she concluded triumphantly.

"Well, Mrs. Birdie, that is within five miles of knowing where it is."

"Now don't you make fun of me, or I'll never remember; I'm not sure, but I think it was in—in fourteenth street," looking at him somewhat doubtfully.

"And you could see Central Park from the windows?"

"Oh, yes, I know it was Central Park because the agent spoke particularly about that, and how nice it was in the mornings to take your sewing or a book and sit under the trees."

"Hm-m," Ned seemed a trifle abstracted, "I suppose the agent frequently did that."

"Oh, Ned, it is the dearest little flat——"

"Yes, dear, and so—" he coughed; "go on; and——"

"Everything is so convenient and handy; right within reach."

"Yes, it generally is in a New York flat."

"Well!" she seemed a little uncomfortable. "What is the matter? You look cross as a bear."

"Nothing; oh, nothing! Have you remembered the number of the street yet?"

Very timidly, "Isn't it fourteenth?"

"Fourteenth Street is nearly three miles from Central Park. Perhaps it was one hundred and fourteenth."

"No; now I come to think of it, I am almost sure it had a five in it."

"Perhaps you remember the agent's name."

"It was something like Nelson or Wilson or Rawlston—or—but, Ned, I would *know* him in a minute; I have a splendid memory for faces."

A rather quizzical expression was in Ned's eyes as he said, "Well, never mind bothering about such an insignificant thing as figures. Just get out the lease, dear, and then we will know in a minute."

A look of real dismay came into the blue eyes, and the next words came hesitatingly:

"Why, Ned, I always try to be careful about important things, so after our furniture and everything arrived from my parents—you know they insisted on buying everything and sending it on; they said I was too young to be trusted to buy furniture, the idea! Well, when I got your cable, I paid three months rent in advance, and then I thought how likely one is to lose things traveling around as I knew we would be over here, so I took the lease and the rent receipt and your letters, Ned, and I locked them all up in the dearest little secret closet inside another closet; and, Ned, here is the key!" and she held up a diminutive bit of brass triumphantly.

A peal of laughter rang through the room, and presently Ned managed to say, "My child, you are certainly original; do you realize that now we find ourselves the proud owners of a handsomely furnished apartment situated 'somewhere' and that the only clue to the location of that somewhere is securely locked up in the said apartment?"

"Oh, Ned," she was almost crying, "but you know so much about New York, don't you think you could find it if I described the house to you?"

"New York people are generally so absorbed in developing variety of character that we don't waste much on our architecture. Why, dear, I've lived in a street for five years, and if they took down the curtains from the parlor windows, I would try and get into the wrong house. Now, don't cry, little woman, when we get to New York we will advertise for it, and we will probably find it somehow." It took some nerve, but Bentley was equal to it, and spoke with all the easy confidence of things coming his way that is so thoroughly American.

"But, Ned, it seems so funny to advertise a flat being 'lost,' just as if it were a pocket-book or—or a dog!"

"Yes; as soon as the situation really dawned on me I quite made up my mind to consider it only from the humorous point of view. You know, dear, a man is apt to become so concentrated on the wild game of money making that sometimes he is forgetful, too, of things he ought to remember; and, whether we find our little flat or not, I shall always consider this key the memento of a very funny adventure. And say, little woman, with this key I pledge myself never to leave you again in such a brutal fashion. If I can't make money when and where I can take you, I just won't make money."

"And you don't blame me, Ned, after all?"

"Not a bit!"

* * * * * *

Ten days later there was rather a dramatic moment in the main corridor of the Waldorf-Astoria. Mr. Edward Bentley, after having been to all the principal newspaper offices, and leaving carefully worded advertisements to be inserted in the next day's issue, returned to meet his wife and go to dinner. Mrs. Birdie strenuously objected to having her name appear in print concerning the matter, so, after much deliberation and the rejection of many ways of expressing the dilemma, the result they arrived at was so obscure and mysterious that it was seriously thought to be the cipher of a gang of burglars. Of this effect, however, young Bentley was happily ignorant.

It was snowing as he crossed from the Herald Building, and as he turned into Thirty-fourth street he smiled to himself at the thought of the childishness of his pretty feather brain. As he emerged from the storm doors, he was amazed to see his wife conversing easily with a tall, prosperous looking individual.

Birdie saw him immediately and with perfect self-possession introduced "Mr. Wilkinson, this is my husband. Isn't it odd, Ned, meeting our agent here almost as soon as we had arrived? I was just telling Mr. Wilkinson that we were coming for the keys of our apartment in the morning, and he has so kindly consented to come here and go with us, so we can inspect it together and see if everything is all right."

"It's very kind, I'm sure!" murmured Ned.

"Delighted to have met you Mr. Bentley," said the agent, "but you must pardon my abruptness, as I am half an hour late now for an appointment. Ten o'clock to-morrow. Good evening," and he disappeared in the crowd. Ned looked half dazed as he said, "And didn't you tell him?"

"Certainly not," replied his wife, "you know, I told you I never forgot a face, and the minute I saw him I remembered his name. And Ned, don't laugh at me, but I am almost sure that the street is one hundred and fourteenth and the number is five, I think."

"Well, my dear Mrs. Bentley, I will never laugh at you again; and as we are in several thousand dollars' worth of furniture, suppose we celebrate by having the best dinner we can order. What do you say?"

"I say 'yes'. And let's have it quick."

Down Grade From Lanesville.

A Fourth of July Story.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY HAROLD GRANTHAM.

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THE PEOPLE of Lanesville held that the Fourth of July celebration, bonfire and fireworks, should be at their end of the town; while those of Rochester, the center village, though smaller in population, claimed that the proper place was the square in front of the Rochester town-house. Through some chicanery a town meeting was called and comparatively few of the Lanesville men learned of it until it was too late to attend, and at this meeting it was voted to have the celebration at Rochester Center. Naturally, the result was a widening of the breach which had been growing more and more apparent during the past ten years.

The young men and boys of Rochester entered heartily into the work of collecting barrels and boxes for the fire, but those of Lanesville kept aloof, and it was generally understood that the celebration, so far as the bonfire and fireworks were concerned, would be a Rochester celebration, and Lanesvillites would remain strictly at home.

John Hendricks, the station agent at Lanesville, one of the most popular young men in the village, was so incensed at the action of the town, that he made an oath that he would go to bed as soon as the seven o'clock train had gone on the night before the Fourth, and lie there until sunrise on the morning following the celebration. Hendricks was a man of his word and he had never been known to break it.

In order to understand what occurred on that memorable night, the reader must know something of the topography of the country separating Rochester and Lanesville. The two villages were some five miles removed from each other, Lanesville being situated upon much higher land, reached from Rochester by a carriage road marked by several steep hills, and by rail, a heavy grade beginning below Rochester and ending somewhat above the Lanesville station. Close to the station was John Hendricks' home, where he lived with his mother and sister Helen.

True to his word, Hendricks retired as soon as the last train for the night had gone, arranging with the baggage-master so that the duties of the morrow might be attended to, and before the nine o'clock bells rang he was asleep.

Helen spent the evening with friends and before she realized how time was passing, it was eleven o'clock. There being no young men present to escort her home, the walk proved a lonely one. Part of the way being through the woods, it is not to be wondered at that she was nervous, and listened intensely at the least sound, the breaking of a twig or the flutter of a nightbird. Suddenly a nervous chill passed over her, for distinctly she heard voices by the roadside.

"I hid that keg of giant powder in the center of the pile, Tom," said one, "and when the fire reaches it there will be an explosion that will shake the town, and if there are not a hundred of those cursed Rochester beats laid out, then my name is not Jim Temple."

For an instant the girl stood still; then, realizing that it was for her to act, would she avert the impending disaster at Rochester, she noiselessly crept to the other side of the road and swiftly sped homeward. The hands of the clock pointed to twenty minutes of twelve as she entered the house; at twelve o'clock the bonfire was to be lighted.

"John!" she said, ascending to her brother's room and shaking him with all her might, "wake up! wake up, I say! Jim Temple has hidden a keg of giant powder in the pile at Rochester; it is twenty minutes of twelve!"

In less than thirty seconds Hendricks was on his way, and clearing the stairs at two bounds, ran to the station, thinking to wire the agent at Rochester, but as he ran it occurred to him that at that hour of the night there was no operator at the Rochester key. Close upon this came another thought and as he bounded across the rails he determined to act upon it.

Upon the siding stood a passenger coach, left there the previous day; a wooden bar thrown across the rails prevented it from rolling down the grade onto the main line.

Throwing the switch, Hendricks ran back to this car, and tossing the bar to one side, stepped aboard just as the wheels began to turn. Slowly at first, then faster and faster, past the switch and down the grade, until it was rushing on and on at a rate that was a revelation to Hendricks, familiar as he was with railroading. With both hands he gripped the brake, slung from side to side as the car rounded the curves in the road, staring ahead into the darkness, wondering the while what would be the end of the frightful ride.

He saw the mass of people surrounding the heap of barrels as plainly as though he were one of them; he could see, as it were, the lighting of the fire, and then he saw a catastrophe so horrible that his blood seemed to stand still for a moment in its circling race; he saw the burning brands being hurled among the bystanders with terrific force, men, women and children being torn to pieces by the fearful explosion. He saw all this and wondered if his wild ride would be crowned with success.

Clink, clink, clink, sounded the rails as the wheels passed over them, and wist, wist, wist, sang the telegraph poles. At one point it seemed as though the wheels on one side had left the rails as the car shot around a sharp curve and then, as the straight rail to Rochester was struck, Hendricks saw the lights of the village a mile and a half away.

Bracing himself Hendricks now applied the brake, a shower of sparks answering the mighty effort. On and on the car sped, pounding the rails as though enraged at being checked in its mad rush. Each instant the switch-lights at Rochester were becoming larger and though the car was gradually coming to a stop, it was still an unsettled question which would win—strength or momentum.

Over the first of the switches the wheels pounded and Hendricks, bracing himself for a final effort tightened the brake one more notch, and setting it ran through the car and down the steps, ready to leap as the car passed the station.

How he managed to keep on his feet Hendricks never knew but somehow he contrived to and as he ran across the square where hundreds were awaiting the burning of the fire, he shouted for a clear road, and he got it.

"Drop that torch!" he shouted to the man who was about to light the fire, "*drop it*, I say!"

"What for?"

"Because I tell you to," said Hendricks, slipping his hand into his hip pocket, seeing that the man was not inclined to obey, "drop it, or I'll blow out your brains!"

"What is the trouble here?" demanded the constable, advancing, "why are you interfering?"

"Because I don't want to see you all blown to atoms; there's a keg of giant powder somewhere in that pile."

A short search revealed a cask of the infernal stuff and as it was rolled out a cheer was sent up that was heard across the river, more than two miles away.

Somehow the finding of the powder chilled the ardor of the people and it was decided not to burn the pile that night. One by one they returned to their homes, Hendricks availing himself of the constable's hospitality, all thankful that no horror had ushered in the Fourth.

The story of Hendricks' daring ride quickly spread through the village and the following morning, Hendricks having returned to Lanesville, a meeting was called in the square and by a unanimous vote it was decided to transfer the entire heap of barrels and boxes to Lanesville, nearly every man who owned a horse offering to assist in carrying them thither; the fireworks likewise to be displayed at the same place.

Meanwhile Temple and his companion were being rounded up and before noon they were lodged in jail; two weeks later they were behind the bars with a long sentence staring them in the face.

The celebration at Lanesville proved a booming success, nothing in past years approaching it. A few days after the Fourth, Hendricks received a letter from the superintendent of the railroad informing him that a more responsible and better paid position was awaiting him at one of the main offices. "A man who can keep his wits about him and do the only thing that can be done, acting on the spur of the moment, we deem worthy of advancement." This was the closing sentence of the superintendent's letter explaining the appointment.

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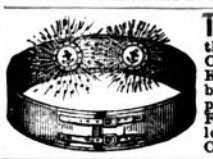
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You may die any minute—anywhere. Heart troubles, dangerous as they are, can be instantly recognized by all. No doctor can tell better than you if your heart is out of order. If you have any of the following symptoms, don't waste any time. Get my Heart Tablets at once.

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Heart Disease

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FREE To prove how absolutely I believe in them, to prove that they will do exactly what I say, I will send a box free to any name and address sent me. One trial will do more to convince you than any amount of talk. It will cost you nothing, and may save your life. Send for a trial box and enclose stamp for postage.

DR. AUSTIN ALBRO, Box 962 AUGUSTA, MAINE.

Cayuse Hoof Prints in the Foot Hills.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



A CAYUSE is a northwest Indian pony. He is a rough-coated, sleepy-eyed, square-headed extraction of the bronco type, laying no claims to beauty or a family tree, having a pedigree of doubtful origin, and a tenacity of life that is astonishing. He is one of nature's thoroughbreds.

The whole race of the undersized horse on our western prairies is claimed by some to have originated from the small Spanish horse used by De Soto and other of his countrymen, in their early expeditions in the New World. Whether this has been satisfactorily proven, or whether they are as much a native of this continent as the now extinct buffalo, is not essential to this narrative.

As compared with our bronco, I believe the cayuse will withstand a much harder winter, and as much abuse as the former. One thing is certain, they are hard and vicious buckers.

I remember, while in town one afternoon, seeing a larger crowd than usual, perched along the top of the C. P. R. corral. On being told that a band of some two hundred horses had just been driven in from the range, I galloped over, knowing that in a cow-town, if there is one place more than another where one can find fun and plenty of it, it is in the vicinity of a dusty corral, filled with a surging mass of biting, squealing, kicking, untamed horseflesh. Casting the bridle reins over my horse's head, I joined the "rooters" at the top of the ten-foot fence.

Three cow-punchers had just roped and thrown a chestnut mare, preparatory to saddling. It seemed, that in drunken arrogance the night before, Dry-Creek Jack a pony buster from over the border, had boasted of coming up to show "them Canadian fellers" how to ride. In consequence, the wildest horse in the bunch had been selected on this the following morning, to make that rough rider "take leather"—a term used when one is obliged to grab the horn and cantle of his saddle to prevent being thrown.

While the animal was having an ugly looking curbed-bit forced between his teeth, Jack had been pointed out to me, although I could only distinguish through the dust a bluish flannel shirt, open at the throat, and a pair of white goat-skin shaps. After the saddle was firmly in place, and a big handkerchief tied tightly over the pony's eyes, the ropes were loosened, and the horse allowed to rise, which she did with awkward agility. The gate was then thrown open, and a mounted man dragged the half-strangled, reluctant horse out of the pen, at the end of a raw-hide riata. Our rider promptly swung into his seat, the noose was thrown over the pony's head and as the blinder was raised clear of her eyes she started with a succession of stiff-legged jumps toward the town, even before her rider was fairly seated. This horse was what is termed through the west a running bucker. Of course there followed a wake of laughing, guying, insinuating "jolliers," only too eager to vent their coarse wit on this rough rider, who without a doubt was a better man in the saddle than any one of them.

Two mounted men rode on either hand to prevent the unruly animal from traveling sidewise into a building or telegraph pole. Jack was riding with reckless ease, and as the two reached the railroad crossing we were unprepared to see him nearly unseated as the horse threw herself into the air, landing end for end upon the opposite side of the track.

Down the one and only thoroughfare of the town they madly tore, bucking at every other jump and nearly running over an almond-eyed son of China, who was heavily laden with a neck yoke of dripping water pails for the kitchen of the Cargyle House, close at hand. Along the front of these hotel and store buildings were broad, canvas covered verandas, having a plank flooring on a level with the road, thus forming a sort of covered sidewalk the entire length of the street. Just before reaching this the mare stopped bucking and developed a sudden burst of speed, which threatened to leave the guardians well in the rear. Apparantly without reason, she made straight for the end of this piazza, notwithstanding the efforts of her rider to prevent it. As she struck the boards there was a wild scramble among the ever present loafers, who tipped over chairs and each other in their haste to make room for the fiery-eyed intruder. She bucked into the middle of a fallen chair, sending the pieces in all directions, frightening her into more determined endeavors to dislodge the rider and causing the proprietor to swear unmercifully as the seat scaled through the open door and landed on his shin.

Down the covered porches she bucked, followed by an excited mob of men, watching for the outcome of this uncommon bit of horse play, many of whom would not have turned to look at an ordinary bucking-match. The two cow-boys, with trailing lariats, galloped abreast of him, ready at a moment's notice to rope the horse at the first sign of trouble. They were entirely unprepared for what happened, however.

The horizontal supports for the porch roof of an outfitting store were much lower than those of the previous building. The animal in her flight, bucked directly under one of these and the sound as Jack's head came in contact with it, was distinctly heard by us all. Though still hanging on, he had evidently lost control of his body, and settled down into the heavy California saddle which was the pride of his heart, limp as a rag. It was the work of a moment for one of the men to rope that horse, and for the other to ride alongside and lift the now reeling and unconscious fellow from his unsafe position.

That is busting a horse; and it knocks all the pluck and spirit out of him as well as the rider, though not always in like manner. A by-stander remarked at the time that he would not give a big copper Canadian cent for a horse broken in this manner.

In marked contrast was this to the breaking in of my own saddle-pony. Such a picture he made that wet morning in May down at Collins' corral, when I first laid eyes on his satin-like bay coat! What indignation gleamed from his usually sleepy eye, and what expression vented itself in that wrathful switch of his impatient tail! Of course I wanted him, but so did others. A man named Fox was about to break him, and in a more scientific method than the one mentioned above. The horse was vainly trying to break from the hateful raw-hide, which choked, stretched, and hummed like a fiddle-string with the tension. In his short five years of life he had felt that rope but once before—when a hot branding-iron seared the flesh on his left shoulder, forever leaving an ugly O T as a means of future identification. It was Sunday, and the few spectators watched the pair with no little interest. Fox evidently understood what he was about, and during the whole proceeding kept talking to his pupil in low soothing tones. It took some time for the animal to realize that one of his former enemies now meant him no harm; but he finally allowed Fox, after much patience and perseverance, to caress his glossy neck and broad, intelligent forehead. The man next called for a light riding-whip with which he alternately stroked and slapped the pony from head to foot, gradually increasing the force of the blows without actually hurting him. To this also the horse soon ceased to object, and even consented to having the bottom of each hoof hammered with a stone. It took him longer to become accustomed to the empty meal-bag with which his trainer pelted him; though he at last stood quietly, not minding it in the least.

In the meantime, the lasso had given place to a leather halter, with a long lead rope attached. With this rope, his head and tail were secured closely together on the right side, which checked his wild endeavors to rear and buck as he was forced about the corral by Fox and his whip. After transferring the process to the left side, the horse was thoroughly conquered, having learned his lesson well—to submit to the will of man. He was then saddled, and Fox called for volunteers to ride him, assuring us the horse would not buck; but we noticed he was averse to trying it himself. As no one seemed anxious for the opportunity, and as I wished to purchase the horse myself, and did not care to see a regular bronco buster spoiling Fox's good work, I consented to mount him. His wild, untamed nature had been subdued however, and after riding him a few times about the corral, I made a trade with the owner, and that afternoon took him up to our camp on the buttes. The whole proceeding had taken less than an hour, and was the most wonderful bit of horse-taming ever witnessed by the majority of us. Two days previous this same horse had nearly killed a man who was crossing the corral in which he was penned. He proved the gentlest animal in our outfit, with many other traits that a horse should have.

Afterward, when I was encamped far to the north on Nation river, he would come to the tent, morning after morning, frequently thrusting his nose through the canvas fly for sugar, which he never failed to receive.

Nothing so endears a horse to one as this life together on the trail. You share its dangers and responsibilities in common.

You depend upon your horses for the safe conduct of yourself and outfit. They in turn rely on you to select for them a camp site where good feed and water are plentiful. They also expect of their master to look well to the condition of their backs, and to see that the pack-saddles and loads do not gall and chafe them.

Ofttimes it was necessary on the trail to pack my riding-horse in order to save the back of one of the pack animals. It was laughable to note the utter dejection expressed in every line of his body on the mornings that I approached with the saw-buck pack-saddle instead of the usual one in my hand. Frequently through the day he would call to our notice his displeasure at the unyielding load with dissatisfied grunts.

He keenly enjoyed rounding up and chasing in the rest of the band who left their grazing each morning with the greatest reluctance. He was a splendid traveler, though not particularly fast; but while hunting strayed horses in the rough country I have been in the saddle from six-thirty in the morning until nine at night, and he seemed little the worse for his hard day's work.

That pony would traverse a log lying across a slough with the accuracy and precision of a trained tight-rope walker, for water was distasteful and the swimming of rivers was for him an abomination to the flesh.

It is said that all horses, but more especially a buckskin, having a black line beginning at the root of the tail and running the entire length of the back, are uncommonly tough, but I consider that term would apply to most cayuses. Their long shaggy coat is well adapted to protect them from the fierce winter, typical of the Canadian northwest, and they will pull through and endure hardships that would kill an eastern or less sturdy horse, twice over. A few weeks' feeding on the young and tender bunch grass in the spring, puts them in prime condition again.

I once overheard an old-timer remark to a tenderfoot who was complaining that his five-year-old was not tough: "Any hoss that'll pull through five winters on that there range," (pointing to the buttes above the town) "is a tough hoss and don't you forget it." I believe he was telling facts.

Two of these ponies, during last year, carried me faithfully and well, over a thousand miles of the roughest kind of territory—across bare divides and rocky summits and through deep, dark pine forests, where it was hard for them to rustle food. In the swampy country there were trails many miles in extent, and knee-deep with clinging spongy mud, through which they were compelled to wade and worry.

Often it became necessary to brave icy currents of greenish glacier-water, and finally to make the ascent and hurried crossing of the Cascade Range. At one time we were obliged to make sixty miles and to travel all one night, to which duty they responded nobly. It was inspiring, that ride in the moonlight across the Pacific divide. Glaciers and snow-capped summits guarded the trail on either hand, while under the cliffs far below us roared a boisterous little stream, the Sus Kwa (Bear River.)

Later we entered Hazelton, at the head of canoe navigation on the Skeena River, where our tired horses obtained a well-earned rest. Our journey was finished and we parted there.

Never will I forget those long, reckless gallops in the cool of the morning, looking for lost stock, on the ranges above the Frazer's canyons, or the longer, slower rides across the country with our pack-train.

How vividly it all comes back again—the wierd call of the coyote just at dusk, the flickering light of the camp-fire on the ghost-like tent, the crunch, crunch of the feeding horses close by or the inquiring "nicker" of a strayed one, coming from the mist on the meadow.

Perhaps he is calling for me now!

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These Four New Preparations comprise a complete treatment for nearly all the ills of life. The **Food-emulsion** is needed by some, the **Tonic** by others, the **Expectorant** by others, the **Jelly** by others still, and **all four,** or any **three,** or **two,** or any **one,** may be used singly or in combination, according to the exigencies of the case. Full instructions with each set of four free remedies, represented in this illustration.



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Represent a **New** system of medicinal treatment for the **weak,** and those suffering from **wasting** diseases, or inflammatory conditions of **nose, throat** and **lungs.**

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According to the exigencies of your case, fully explained in the treatise given free with the **free** medicine, you may take **one,** or any **two,** or **three,** or **all four,** in combination.

A cure is **certain** if the simple directions are carefully followed.

The medicines are especially adapted for those who suffer from weak lungs, coughs, sore throat, catarrh, grip, consumption, and other pulmonary troubles.

But they are also of wonderful efficacy in the building of **weak systems,** in purifying the blood, **making flesh,** and restoring to weak, sallow people rich and healthy constitutions and complexions.

Female troubles and the many ailments of delicate children are speedily relieved.

The basis of the entire system is a flesh-building, nerve and tissue-renewing **food.**

Every invalid and sick person needs **strength.** This food gives it.

Many people get the complete system for the sake of the **Food,** which they themselves need, and give away the other three preparations to their friends.

The second article is a **Tonic.** It is good for weak, thin, dyspeptic, nervous people. For those who have no appetite, who need bracing up.

Thousands take only the Food and the Tonic.

The third preparation is a medicinal healing **Jelly,** in a patent collapsible tube. It cures catarrh. It heals all irritation of the nose, throat and mucous membrane. It gives immediate relief. It is also a dainty application for sore lips, sunburn, rough skin, etc.

Perhaps a million people need this jelly without any of the other articles.

The fourth article is an **Expectorant** and Cough Cure. The only one that can positively be relied upon. Contains no dangerous drugs, and is absolutely safe for children. Goes to the very root of the trouble, and not merely alleviates, but **cures.**

The four together form a panoply of **strength** against disease in whatever shape it may attack you.

THE FREE OFFER

To obtain these four **FREE** invaluable preparations, illustrated above, all you have to do is to write, mentioning COMFORT, in which you read this article, to **DR. T. A. SLOCUM, 98 Pine Street, New York,** giving your name and full address. The **free medicine** will then be sent you, in the hope that if it does you good, you will recommend it to your friends.

A POCKET LUXURY

Is a tortoise shell comb in a neat and fancy case, always handy and useful; good for men, women, school children and the soldiers. We will send one with our great catalogue of thousands of bargains for only six cents. Address, Comfort, Augusta, Maine.



FREE EXAMINATION Express Charges Paid

Before you buy a watch it will not cost you a cent to see our great watch bargain. Cut this out and send to us with your name and address, and we will send you by express for examination a handsome **WATCH AND CHAIN C.O.D. $4.50.** Express charges paid. Double hunting case beautifully engraved, stem wind and stem set watch, fitted with richly jeweled movement, finely adjusted and guaranteed a correct time keeper, with long gold plated chain for ladies or vest chain for gents. If you consider it equal in appearance to any $40.00 gold filled watch and chain bearranted 20 years, pay the express agent **$4.50** only and the watch and chain are yours. Our 20 year guarantee sent with each watch. Mention if you wish Ladies or Gents size.

DIAMOND JEWELRY CO., 225 Dearborn St., CHICAGO, ILL.

$100.00 PER MONTH and expenses paid the right man for selling our famous Poultry Food. For full instructions, **FREE,** address LAMBERT FOOD CO., Dept. 37, Parsons, Kas.

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$3.00 Daily. Easy. No Failure.

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It Won't Turn Silver to Gold, nor Turn Gold to Silver; but it Will Coin Dollars for You. Agents Wanted.

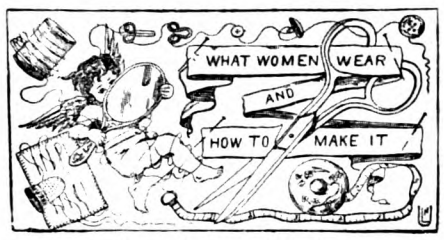
The Electro Polishing Cloth, a wonderful prepared cloth that gives electric brightness and lustre to every metal it touches. Without any powders or paste, simply by rubbing with this cloth, a brilliant lasting polish will be placed on Tableware, Gold, Silver, Nickel, Copper, Plated ware, Bicycles, Glass, etc. Bright, absolutely clean, and perfectly free from corrosive tarnish or dirt and will last. The Greatest Revolution in the Household. Takes the place of all Polishes, Powders, Pastes, Liquids and also Chamois Skins at less than one-quarter the cost. It is especially adapted for cleaning and polishing Metal or Glass Tableware.



Will Not Injure the Most Delicate Surface. It does not scratch! It works Wonders! and a child can use it! Will clean and polish just as well when black as when new. No matter how soiled the "cloth" may become, the black will not rub off and soil the hands. Can be used until entirely worn out. A moist portion will clean and a dry portion polish until the cloth is worn threadbare. Directions with every cloth. Simple and sure. Ready, Quick, Clean, Economical. The Greatest Invention of the Century.

A Bargain Offer to All. We want 20,000 agents to sell these cloths at fairs, campaign meetings, on the street, from house to house, everywhere. You can make $100 a month profit, young and old, both sexes. Sells like greased lightning. One sample cloth full size, sent free to anyone who will send only 10 cents for agents' prices and a paid three month's trial subscription to our charming family paper. The greatest introduction offer ever made; we will return money if not perfectly satisfied.

SUNSHINE, Box 551, AUGUSTA, MAINE.



WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.

IN spite of dull, heavy skies the summer's fashions embrace all the thin stuffs with more than usual affection and are unquestionably lovely. The most modest of dressers should have several linen and cotton gowns of various weights and textures. An odd application of materials is the combining cloth of gold, heavy gold braid, and even tiny bullion fringe with white linen and pique, and yet it's the newest wrinkle and considered most chic.



Skirts shirred across both hips as well as the back are very popular and becoming to slender figures. Of course heavy materials cannot be made up in this way. It is prettier in soft fabrics like chiffons, mousseline de soie, berege, etc. With this style of skirt the collarless bodice and elbow sleeve are the correct accompaniments, with very frequently the dainty undersleeve as a finish. Sleeves are usually snug from shoulder to elbow and perfectly devoid of trimming, but from elbow to wrist all sorts of elaborations are indulged in. A pretty sleeve has a small puff set directly at the elbow, and a second one at the hand where it droops to the fingers. Another novel sleeve has a plain, tight upper arm, the lower arm entirely laid in tiny frills about one inch wide. The effect is very pretty. A favorite sleeve is snug to the elbow where it is set off by a loose square cuff, underneath which is an undersleeve of daintily embroidered muslin finished with a narrow band at the wrist.

There is a craze just now for Chinese jewelry in all of which jade appears first and foremost, probably because it is supposed to bring all sorts of good luck to the wearer. Jade bracelets of a beautiful green are worn by up-to-date girls, while pendants of jade are worn on the chatelaine. The most unique among these novelties, perhaps, are the belts composed of Chinese characters in silver applied to black velvet.



Can you imagine anything more fetching than a dear little tight-fitting coat of flowered silk, built exactly like a military coat, worn with a frou-frou lace skirt? The coat is double-breasted and has a deep, flat collar of lace like the skirt, while the elbow sleeves with their deep ruffle, have under sleeves of white tucked chiffon as a finish.

Smart little Etons of taffeta or velvet, short-sleeved and collarless, are worn with skirts of chiffon or muslin laid in the narrowest of tiny frills from the waist to the foot of the skirt. Separate skirts must match, or at least harmonize as much as possible with the shirt waist or those of fancier build. A skirt of creamy nun's veiling or alpaca may be worn most effectually with any of the light, dressy blouses now so much in vogue, and present a really much more attractive *tout ensemble* than the dark skirt, which has a way of cutting the lines of the figure directly in two.

A new belt which seems particularly chic, consists of satin, is leather lined, with a buckle at the back and a safety-pin attachment at the lower side for securing the belt to the skirt. The fastening was effected by a tiny extra strap inside the belt, so that the end of the latter was passed simply through a cross-band and the buckle which held the fringed scarf in place had all the appearance of buckling the belt also. This leather lining of silk and ribbon belts is a feature worthy of attention. In some cases the leather exceeds the ribbon in width. The most attractive of these are in light colors, grey or fawn; the ribbon facing of moire, and the buckle covered with leather. The large cut steel and silver buckles are still to the fore.

Pure gold jewelry grows more and more in favor. By "pure gold" must be understood that curious greeny gold, which I understand is the precious metal practically unalloyed. One says "As yellow as gold," but unalloyed gold it seems is really not yellow but a pale yellowey, sage green. To my taste it is not so attractive as the deep yellow gold, even if it is less pure.

Tulle bows are made so excessively full and of such crisp tulle that they flare out into rosettes; they are frequently chenille spotted, but sometimes have their edges of ribbon. They are not so becoming as the softer bows, though they probably look smart on people whose faces are large enough to overcome them.

Stiff corsets are unknown in Paris. French corsets are always supple and bendable, and this accounts for the ease of French figures, which are never tightened except at the waist, leaving the bust and hips quite free. The English figure is usually tightened too much at the bust and hips, which gives too straight a look to the figure rendering every movement stiff and uncomfortable. Let any girl lace her corsets only at the waist and let her select them as soft and light as possible, and then see if her figure be not as graceful in shape as the most graceful and elastic French figure. No tight, straight-down, even lacing will ever make a pretty figure. If the corset cannot be made expressly to suit the figure, then let it be laced only in the middle of the waist. Even then no corset should be worn by girls until they are well along in their teens. Remember, the softer the corset the easier it will be and the tighter it may be laced at the waist without feeling uncomfortable. This is the only way to mould the figure without injuring the health.



Tiny little tucks are used in a variety of ornamental ways, and serve as a perfect host in themselves. They are little more than pipings and are thus most amenable of adjustment and are easily made to assume the outlines of yokes, corselets and boleros, not to mention epaulette sleeve-caps. Stitching is also used in most extravagant elaborations, and never fails to lend an air of originality to the most commonplace gown.

Artistic applications of embroidered cloths promise to be a distinct feature of the season's trimmings, white and ivory tints being much in favor for the purpose. For example, a bodice cut in the small round decolletage La Mode is pleasant in effect, is filled in with two or three flat collars, facing upwards, of white cloth, stitched over with those little raised French knots, and show a piping of black velvet. Embroidered panne is also considered of excellent merit; more particularly white or one of the delicate pastel shades stitched with black. The speck of black is always a relieving note and grows upon one's affections gradually.

Now that our dresses are made to fit so tightly over the hips, well-fitting underclothes are a necessity. The French idea is to have chemise and petticoat made in one. The upper part is cut to fit the figure without the least vestige of fulness, and then below the hips it widens into the ordinary petticoat. These garments have merely a strip of lace or ribbon to support them across the shoulders and fasten down the center of the front to just below the waist.

Here we are all wearing our hair on the very top of our heads. In Paris it is worn in a chignon low in the back of the neck. The hair in front is waved and rolled back from the face, and the chignon itself is loose and large. In the evening bunches of roses and violets nestle in the hair, but in the daytime it is worn quite plain.

The new colored handkerchiefs are very pretty. In blue, pink and mauve they are charming, and of course they must match the gown with which they are worn. They are embroidered in white in pretty open patterns. Embroidered muslin collars and cuffs are coming in again, too. These are edged with lace, and worn over a colored foundation.



The African empire blouse is the most popular novelty for country wear. It is made of fine quality Khaki cloth, the seams being piped with red cord. It has a deep turn-down shirt collar, with red bone buttons down the front, and an expanding pocket on the left side of the front at the fulness; this pocket is also piped with red. The same idea is carried out in fawn glace silk and scarlet satin pipings or narrow silk Russian braid and has proven to be a very attractive addition to the toilette. Apart from this, the shape of the blouse is the most comfortable that has ever been introduced, as there are no shoulder seams, the yoke being shaped out and fitted to the shoulders in the same manner as a milk-maid's yoke. In this way the weight of the clothing is very evenly distributed, and the wearer consequently enjoys a greater amount of freedom than is experienced in an ordinary ready-made blouse, which has a tendency to drag across the fulness of the figure unless it is cut properly.

Dame Fashion is now prophesying that brides will soon discard gloves altogether. They are certainly a nuisance, more especially if the bride is inclined to be nervous, for who ever heard of gloves coming off easily just when they are especially wished to. The bride of today wears very little jewelry; wedding gowns are in themselves so elaborate that additional ornamentation of this kind would give an overdressed appearance. Original brides are discarding the traditional orange flower and wearing myrtle, white heather, lily of the valley, or, if they possess a flower name, their own especial flower.

A Fourth of July Celebration.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



THE most original, unique and amusing celebration of the Fourth of July which has yet been evolved, was that gotten up last summer in a country place in northern New York. A house party had been planned for the day, and as the invited guests approached the house from the railroad station their first view of the old homestead showed them "Old Glory" floating from its roof, and flags in the place of curtains at every window. The sound of the piano playing the prelude to the "Star Spangled Banner" met their ears, and as the loaded wagon stopped at the door a group of thirteen young girls upon the piazza, each adorned with tri-colored ribbons and waving an American flag, broke into the words

"Oh, say, can you see by the dawn's early light."

All greetings ceased at the sound, the occupants of the wagon sat still in their seats, and not a sound broke the stillness until the grand old hymn was finished and then such a babel of cheers, clapping and hurrahs as went up from listeners and singers alike as nearly caused a stampede of the horses.

Below, on the wide green lawn, was a queer sight. Half a dozen Jersey calves, each blanketed with a flag, frisked about with uncouth gambols at the command of a youth clad in jacket, trousers and cap of the national colors.

Dinner was served on the wide veranda, and the table, with its white cloth, blue dishes and centerpiece of scarlet flowers, and the buttonhole bouquets consisting of one red and white carnations tied with blue ribbon, which lay at each plate, carried out with great success the national color scheme of the day.

The traps which took the party for a ride in the afternoon had awnings of flags, all the horses which drew them were blanketed and adorned with the national colors, the reins striped red, white and blue, and the whips gay with bows and streamers of the same colors.

A POCKET MIRROR.

See yourself as others see you. One of our large imitation aluminum covered pocket mirrors for the boys and girls at school, for the teachers, for men in the woods. Just 5 cents for one with our latest premium supplement.

Golden Moments, Augusta, Maine.

THE NATURAL BODY BRACE



CURES

Female Troubles, Stooping Posture, Inflammations, Internal Pains, Tired Feeling, Backache, Weak Lungs, Nervousness.



TRIAL FREE.

It will make you comfortable, buoyant, happy—give you ability to work and enjoy life. It is simple, wholly external, adjustable to any figure. Worn with or without corset.

We have over 15,000 letters like this:

Chandler, Okla., July 27, 1899.

Your Brace did all you said about it and more for me. It has saved me a big doctor's bill and brought me good health, which I had not had before in 25 years. My troubles were dropsy, headache, lung disease, stomach and other ills to which women are subject. MRS. L. B. DICKINSON.

Write today for particulars and illustrated book mailed free in plain sealed envelope. Address The Natural Body Brace Co., Box 27, Salina, Kansas

Every woman should have this Brace.

WATCH AND CHAIN FOR ONE DAY'S WORK.



Boys and Girls can get a Nickel-Plated Watch, also a Chain and Charm for selling 1½ doz. Packages of Bluine at 10 cents each. Send your full address by return mail and we will forward the Bluine, post-paid, and a large Premium List. No money required.

BLUINE CO. Box 418, Concord Junction, Mass.

ASTHMA Instant relief & positive cure. Sample mailed free to any sufferer. "Physician" Box 86, Augusta, Maine.

$18 to $35 WEEKLY and Expenses. MEN and WOMEN At Home or Traveling



Mr. Smith, of Ind., made $927.50 first 6 months. Albert Hill, of N. J., $238 first month. Mr. Muncy, of Texas, $12.50 first 2 hours. Carrie Williams, clerk, $144 in 6 weeks. Mrs. Hitchcox, $222, besides housekeeping. Lida Kennedy, $84.00 while teaching.

LET US START YOU—No experience needed. Our agents made over $47,000.00 last month supplying the enormous demand for our famous Quaker Bath Cabinet, and appointing agents. Wonderful SELLER. Everybody buys—business men, families and physicians. No scheme, fraud or fake methods. Write Today for Our Proposition. New Plan, etc. FREE. World Mfg. Co., 47 World B'ld'g, Cincinnati, O.

[*We recommend above firm as reliable.—Editor.*]

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EARN THIS HANDSOME **BROCADED DRESS SKIRT.**

This is a very stylish and handsome black skirt, with a full 3 & three quarter yard sweep. It is made in a handsome variety of all over large leaf brocade woven BRILLIANTINE; a durable and stylish material for dress skirts lined with a patent black rustling cloth. 7 in. interlining bias velveteen bound bottom. We will send it free to any one for selling 2 doz. sets of our Ladies' Gold plated Dress Pins for 25c. a set, (each pin set with an opal-like jewel.) Send no money. Simply send your name & address & we will send you the pins postpaid. When sold, send us the money & we will send you this beautiful DRESS SKIRT for your trouble. We trust you & will take back all the pins you cannot sell. We'll send you a SOLID GOLD plated Jewel set Ring, free, if you write to-day.

The Maxwell Co., Dept. 121 St. Louis, Mo.

BARGAIN SALE Remnants of **SILK RIBBONS**



BEAUTIFUL SILK RIBBONS ALMOST FREE

To close out our tremendous large stock of **Remnants of Silk Ribbons**, which is the **largest** in quantity, value and variety in **New York City**, we have marked the **prices way down.** These are the most **beautiful Silk Ribbons** in the East, and at this remarkable mark-down sale we are making an unprecedented and unparalleled **BARGAIN OFFER.** These **beautiful Silk Ribbons** were recently purchased at wholesale auction sales at prices which will enable our lady customers to secure **unheard of bargains.** We are overstocked and must sell them at a **greatly reduced price** from their real value. These ribbons are really very fine ribbons. Please do not judge them by our **MARK-DOWN PRICES.** They are bought in very large quantities at wholesale auction sales, and we generally buy for **spot cash** all the ribbons a mill has. We have bought as high as **$8,000 worth of these beautiful Silk Ribbons at one time,** and they are certainly of most excellent value. We are anxious to sell a lot of these rare Silk Ribbons in every neighborhood, as their beauty and value at **OUR CUT PRICES** will sell lots of them to your lady friends.

Now, remember, these remnants are all from one to two and three yards in length, and many of them are the *finest* quality of Ribbons in the market, of *different widths*, in a variety of fashionable shades; in fact, nearly all colors are represented; also different kinds of Ribbons adapted for *bonnet strings, neckwear, trimming for hats and dresses, bows, scarfs, etc., etc.* No lady can purchase such fine Ribbons as these at any store in the land for many times our price, so that the bargains offered by us should be taken advantage of by our customers.

Our stock of Silk Ribbons, from which we put up these 35-cent packages, consists of Crown Edge, Gros Grain, Moire, Picot Edge, Satin Edge, Silk Brocade, Striped Ottoman, and various other styles of Plain and Fancy Silk Ribbons suited to the wants of our lady friends.

We put up carefully assorted packages of Silk Ribbons, assorted colors, no remnants less than one yard long, and all first-class, useful goods.

We will send **1** package for **35** cents, silver, or **36** cents in 2-cent stamps. Carefully packed in boxes, postpaid, upon receipt of price. Address

PARIS RIBBON CO., Box 3044, NEW YORK CITY, N. Y.



RHEUMATISM IS DEAD!

Long Live OXIEN, the King of Remedies that Killed it.

No more infernal tortures, no more roastings of the flesh with red hot irons, no more lightning shocks from the electric battery or dosings with dangerous drugs.

RHEUMATISM HAS BEEN CONQUERED by **Oxien** the **triumph of medicine,** the **Godsend** of the **age.** Absolute cures are now certain, and **Oxien** is **making them every day.** In this connection

WE HAVE A WORD TO SAY.

Oxien was last year put to the test as a remedy for **Rheumatism** and it made a record of absolute cures in **Acute Rheumatism,** frequently called rheumatic fever, **Pericarditis** (inflammation of the investing membrane of the heart), **Endocarditis** (inflammation of the living membrane of the heart), **subacute rheumatism,** sometimes applied to the less severe attacks of the disease, **chronic rheumatism,** which swells and twists the joints and **sciatica,** or neuralgia of the sciatic nerve. In fact Oxien is guaranteed to cure Rheumatism in any form. Thousands jump for joy and many write as follows:

Received OXIEN O. K. Found it far superior to what you represent. Have tried everything I could hear of for rheumatism. For ten years I have been crippled up with this terrible disease. Laid in bed one whole year. Could not turn or feed myself and when I was able to walk on crutches (which I did for four years) was crooked and unable to straighten up, but **Oxien did it** *and you can imagine how happy I am now.* Yours sincerely, Geo. F. Lawton, Olympia, Wash., Feby. 9th, 1898.

FREE 200,000 BOXES OF RHEUMATISM CURE. **FREE.**

This momentous offer we make in order to more thoroughly introduce this **amazing rheumatism remedy** in the United States and Canada. None but those who will give us their word that they either suffer from rheumatism, or are afraid of it through hereditary tendencies will be considered entitled to free treatment. Therefore, if you want a **box free** send at once, yes to-day. Write plainly as our clerks are badly rushed.

THE GIANT OXIE CO., Box 1120, Augusta, Maine.



EDITOR'S NOTE. The following rules govern the publication of matter in this department.

Contributors must without exception be regular subscribers to Comfort, and every contribution must bear the writer's own name and post-office address in full.

Original letters only, which deal with matters of general interest, will be published. They must be as brief, plain and correct as the writers can make them, and may vary in length from one hundred to four hundred words. Only letters of exceptional merit and interest may reach six hundred and fifty words. Contributors must write on one side of the paper only.

$10 CASH PRIZES $10.

The following cash prizes will be paid monthly:

1st.	For the best original letter	$3.00
2nd.	" " second best original letter	2.50
3rd.	" " third " " "	2.00
4th.	" " fourth " " "	1.50
5th.	" " fifth " " "	1.00

Competitors for these monthly cash prizes must *comply with all the above rules*, and in addition must bring at least one new Cousin into the COMFORT circle; that is, they must send one new subscriber with each letter, together with 50 cents for a yearly subscription.

These cash prizes will be announced monthly in this department.

No premiums will be given for subscriptions sent in under this Prize Offer.

All communications must be addressed to Aunt Minerva, care of COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

CASH PRIZE WINNERS.

Fanny Turner Randolph,	**$3.00**
J. M. W. Smith,	**2.50**
Belle T. Osborne,	**2.00**
Orma V. Eaves,	**1.50**
C. C. Tindall,	**1.00**
Mrs. J. C. Adams,	**2.00**
Cecilia A. M. Blake,	**1.50**

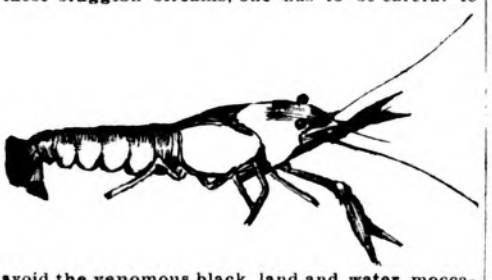
DEAR NIECES AND NEPHEWS:

July is not usually considered to be a time for serious contemplation, but the thought comes to me as I write how many well-known men and women have left this world in the short space of a year. Horatio Alger, Grant Allen, Robert A. Ingersoll, Major Logan, Bishop Newman, Mrs. E. D. N. Southworth, Mrs. Kate Sprague (daughter of Salmon P. Chase), Cornelius Vanderbilt and our Vice-President, Garret A. Hobart. These are only a few out of the long list, and doubtless my readers can supply many more. How fast the scenes around us change! If this world were all how sad would be our lives!

Our first letter today is well adapted to the season, for it tells of the delights of cray-fishing. But we will let its author speak for herself. She says:

"I think I have never seen anything about cray-fishing in your paper, so will send a description of it.

"On the plantation in the springtime cray-fishing is our favorite amusement. Two miles from our residence are the woods, and running through them is a network of small ditches and bayous, and here the cray-fish abound. We arm ourselves with tin pails and poles. Instead of hooks as in ordinary fishing, we tie a small piece of salt meat to the end of the string. We take also small dipping nets, just as in crabbing, and now the merry crowd is ready to drive to the scene of action. It is very picturesque, with the great shady cypress and oak branches waving overhead and the wild bamboo canes, palmettoes and ferns growing all around. Each one chooses what seems to be a good place on the bank of some bayou, though in wandering up and down the banks of these sluggish streams, one has to be careful to



avoid the venomous black land and water moccasin snakes, which according to their nature creep among the dead leaves and tangled underbrush, or slip with a soft splash into the water from which they are never far away. Often they lie along the boughs of the moss laden trees which meet over the bayou, and the fisher has to see that none of these ugly neighbors are near.

"When he is satisfied that he has the premises to himself, he throws in his line and waits for a first bite, which is indicated by a rapid drawing and jerking of the string as the cray-fish backs off with the meat toward his hole in the mud. The fisher then gives a gentle pull and with the aid of his net generally succeeds in landing one or two fine old fellows. They resemble a lobster somewhat, but are very much smaller. They are usually of a dull brown color, but occasionally you see a bright red one. With their protruding black eyes which roll around in every direction, their long, white whiskers and wildly waving claws, they present quite a ferocious appearance and care must be taken in handling them for sometimes they pinch very badly.

"These queer little fish dig round holes on the banks of bayous and stay in them during winter. With the spring they come up and build around these holes odd shaped little chimneys of mud, often a foot above the ground. What these fortifications are intended for no one knows. Here in Louisiana the cray-fish are considered a great delicacy, especially by the French, who make of them a delicious soup called *bisque*. They can be found in other southern states, but are not generally eaten."

FANNY TURNER RANDOLPH, Bayou Goula, La.

Now let us leave the hot, July sunlight and revel for a while in the cool darkness of a limestone cave.

"This part of Kentucky is a limestone region and is noted for its many large caves. The Mammoth Cave, Proctor's Cave, Grand Avenue Cave and the Colossal Cave, are all within a radius of fifty miles of this place, but the one which I shall attempt to describe has a history hitherto unpublished. It is known as the Rhoton Cave, and is situated in a picturesque woods and hilly country, about six miles east of Tompkinsville. Its dimensions are phenomenal, and there are many branches from the main cave leading off in all directions. Exploring parties have traveled in this great underground opening many miles without reaching the end, and the extent of all its grandeur and expanse is yet unknown.

"This cave first came into notice about thirty years ago, by being occupied by a band of 'wild-cat' distillers. Far away in the interior is a spring of pure water, near which they built and operated their distilleries, regardless of the numerous futile attempts of the revenue officers to break up and capture the band together with their distilling outfits; and not until they got tired of the business did they vacate the cave and leave the country.

"The most notable feature of this cave is a huge chamber, far back from the entrance, which presents the appearance of having been, at some remote period, the habitation of human beings. In the center of this chamber is a square stone with length, breadth and height about four feet and smooth on the top. It appears to have served as a dining table; for on it were found shell bowls, shell spoons, and knives made of both stone and bone, besides other articles supposed to have been used in the culinary art of some race dim ages ago. Scattered over the stone floor of the chamber may yet be seen the bones of buffalo, bear and other animals long since extinct in this part of the world.

"In another chamber of the cave, upon a shelving rock, was found a well preserved skeleton of a human being of giant stature, and on its walls may be seen numerous characters and hieroglyphics carved in the rock. These are supposed to represent the written language or dialect of some extinct race. Numerous stone articles characteristic of the warfare of a barbarous race have also been found here." J. M. W. SMITH, Tompkinsville, Ky.

I have here an account of the murderous assault on William Goebel, which every American deeply regrets, but as there is nothing in the letter which we have not already read in the newspapers, it is not worth while to print it.

Anna E. Brientall, from Lancaster, Pa., sends me a story which I cannot use, but return thanks for it.

Now let us wander through the great prison described below, and imagine, if we can, how we would feel if stone walls confined *us* in this lovely July weather.



IOWA'S State Penitentiary is visited by thousands of people each year. The large excursion boats that plow the Mississippi river during the summer months bring upon some days five or six hundred visitors, eager and curious to be shown the details of prison life. The door fee of twenty-five cents goes toward the book fund, and so rapidly does this fund accumulate that a library numbering now over ten thousand volumes, well assorted and carefully catalogued, is at the service of every inmate of the prison.

"This is the oldest penal institution in the State of Iowa. It is located on a plateau in the eastern end of Fort Madison in full view of the approach either by rail or river. It was built in 1839, with a capacity for one hundred and thirty-eight prisoners. The present cell house contains over five hundred cells, the late additions being of steel. The warden's residence is in front of the prison and is a handsome stone building with broad steps and wide veranda.

"Massive walls of stone enclose a square measuring four hundred feet on each side. In the center of this square is an artificial lake and a handsome fountain: the remainder is sodded and dotted profusely with beds of choice flowers which are constantly renewed from the greenhouse near by. Each day five hundred silent men, clothed in the striped garb of the penitentiary, pass by all this beauty on their way to and from their work. Who can tell the influence exerted upon them by the daily sight and sounds of this lovely spot! All about this square are built the great shops, and the sounds of hammers, saws and forges tell of the busy work within. The tool contract employs one hundred and fifty men, the chair company fully as many; the state shops, where sewing, knitting and mending are done; the magnificent new building completed in 1899, and occupied by the Pearl Button Manufactory, are all of interest to the visitor.

"Passing from the noise and confusion of machinery we stop at the hospital, then into the great dining hall with its hundreds of laid places. The wooden benches upon which the men sit while eating are as white as scrubbing can make them. We watched the great army of men march in lock step, under many guards, in to their dinner. Then we saw the fine cold storage room, and the large rotary oven. In the chapel services are held at nine o'clock each Sabbath morning. This service is obligatory but the Sunday-school in the afternoon is not, although most of the men prefer to attend. The buildings are all heated and lighted by electricity, the plants for which are operated within the walls. There are no idlers in this busy hive, and many learn here trades which help them, when their time is up, to earn an honest livelihood.

"Should a man die within the walls, and his body be unclaimed by friends, it is given a resting-place on a high hill north of the walls, beneath which rolls the mighty Mississippi river, as restless, changeful and turbulent as have been the lives of those whose bodies now lie so quietly beneath the trees on the green hill." B. T. O.

The following description of a Fourth of July celebration in Georgia reminds me strongly, in all but the barbecue, of similar celebrations which I have witnessed in the small towns of the New England states. Verily, we are all brothers and the same love of country thrills us all.

"In the small country towns of Georgia the Fourth of July is celebrated with much enthusiasm. For some days before great preparations are in progress for its observance. A committee is appointed by the Confederate Veterans and the local Militia, whose duty it is to prepare a fitting program for the occasion, consisting of speeches, music and a big barbecue.

"Early on the morning of the Fourth the town is thronged with people from all parts of the county. The gray-haired veterans who charged with Gordon, and the pretty country maidens are there, the good old mothers with their soldier sons who are members of the local militia are there, with the fire of patriotism and love of liberty burning as brightly in their hearts as in those of their forefathers in '76. A more congenial and happy crowd could not be found. They listen to the words of the orator of the day, sometimes being moved to tears and then to laughter; they thrill with patriotism as the band plays the Star Spangled Banner, Dixie and the Bonnie Blue Flag, and at the close of the literary exercises the assemblage repairs to the shade of the beautiful oaks, where a bountiful dinner is spread to which they do ample justice.

"As the evening shades draw near in every direction can be seen the 'good old country folks and the laughing lads and lassies going back home, to dream of pleasures enjoyed during the day."

C. C. TINDALL, Jesup, Georgia.

Now here is a letter, and a nice letter, too, from away out in the wilds of Texas—Montgomery, Texas, is the address, but unfortunately our cousin gives me no name but "Lelia", so I cannot write to her.

"You will probably remember me as an old subscriber, for COMFORT was the first paper I ever took, earning the money to subscribe. I can truly say it has greatly improved since. I pick it up now and find it a paper of news, and that in plain condensed form. I am a teacher away out in the country where Bible study is sorely needed. There was no Sunday school till I came to live here six months ago. I had been raised in a good sized town a strict Sunday school scholar and teacher all my life, and felt I couldn't live without it, my sister being the day teacher here, so we banded to organize a school and church. A move for a new house was carried out, the neighbors assembled, and built seats. We now have eighty-four members. How is that for a country school, ten miles from nearest town?" LEILA.

The two following letters are two of the June prize letters which were unavoidably omitted from that issue.

The next letter speaks for itself and needs no comment from me, but I cannot refrain from saying that "it makes the heart go forth greatly" in pity to think of a human soul put in a blind body with a brain so torpid or disordered that it has no way of expressing itself but by music. What a comfort it is to know that there is another world where such poor stifled souls may expand in beauty.

"To many of the cousins the name of 'Blind Tom' is doubtless familiar, so wide-spread is the reputation of this singular child of Nature; but perhaps not many have enjoyed one of the interesting entertainments given during the early days of his musical exhibitions. His individual genius lay in his imitative power, and in all other respects his mind seemed singularly dark. A young slave down in Dixie, previous to the Civil Strife, Tom, in consequence of his sad misfortune, had ever been a privileged character upon his master's plantation; and with an inherent love for music the blind boy would often grope toward the house from whence the sweet notes of the piano reached his ear, and listen with rapt delight to the performances of his young mistress.

"One day, it is said, the lady was greatly surprised while absent from the music room to hear not only the notes of her instrument but also the excellent rendering thereon of her most difficult selections. Hastening thither she beheld idiotic Tom in her accustomed seat, his head thrown back, eyes rolling from side to side, and every feature expressing thorough delight at the success of his musical reproductions. It was a startling revelation to the household, and the result was that Tom, from an obscure, country slave, suddenly became a noted musician and traveler, drawing crowds wherever he went.

"It was during the early part of the Civil War that this strange creature, making a tour of the South under the guardianship of his master, visited my native city. He was then about eighteen years old, tall, angular, ungainly; his sightless eyes as they restlessly rolled from side to side showing only balls of white in a setting of ebony blackness; in every feature a typical African with the unmistakable signs of a 'mind diseased.'

"Having visited Washington, D. C., immediately before Secession, and there heard the great political orators of the day, Tom reproduced with remarkable accuracy their animated speeches, carefully duplicating the individual peculiarities characterizing each.

"Curious and wonderful indeed were his musical performances, the most remarkable being a piano solo entitled: 'The Battle of Manassas' of which Tom was the reputed composer. From the treble notes came sweetly the far-away sounds of the Confederate bands, as they advanced, playing: 'The girl I left behind me,' while the bass sonorously represented the Northern host, heralded by the strains of 'Yankee Doodle.' Nearer and nearer drew the opposing armies; louder grew the respective national airs; then came an ominous lull, followed by a single *boom!* and the contest had begun. What a perfect pandemonium of sounds next followed! The roar of artillery, the roll of musketry, the call of the bugle were in turn imitated; while occasionally 'Dixie' and the 'Star Spangled Banner' came floating from the South and North; the audience, meanwhile, listening in breathless interest. At last the uproar ceased, and the ungainly musician, awkwardly bowing and scraping, retired amid loud and prolonged applause.

"The close of the war brought Tom his freedom, but it is doubtful if his prosperity increased. Speculative greed is said to have actuated those of his own race who quickly constituted themselves his guardians, and poor Tom was the sufferer. He is now well advanced in years and there are no more exhibitions of his genius; but we will hope that the declining days of this dusky child of Nature may be gently soothed by Nature's music and tenderly guarded by Nature's God."

MRS. J. C. ADAMS, Beaufort, S. C.

Now for a bit of description of the beauties of Nature.

"Wisconsin is noted for its numerous lakes, and the one I am about to describe ranks high among them.

"Early in this century there arrived here two men from the East who took up claims bordering on the lake, which was then without a name. One of them wished to name it Big Foot, on account of its shape, and for a number of years it was known as such; but the surrounding scenery recalled to the other man his far-away home among the lakes of New York, and he finally caused this name to be changed to its present one, Geneva.

"It is entirely surrounded by forests of natural growth that are now laid out in parks, in which are towering elms and oaks of immense size. Many of them have been cut down to make way for buildings, and these have been found to have passed the century mark by many years. Springs bursting out from almost unheard of places are among the curiosities, and a sudden rise in the ground recalls to your mind the fact that a long departed Red Man sleeps beneath.

"Many of the parks are private, but there are six of them which are open to the public, and of these the most popular is Kayes, situated in a valley on the south side of the lake. It is a favorite family resort of aristocratic Chicago people, the distance from the city being about seventy-five miles.

"Fishing is great sport here, as there is an abundance of every kind of fresh-water fish. During the month of June the lake is a moving mass of a kind of fish known as the cisco, and swarms of flies called by the same name hover over the lake in colonies like mosquitoes. These are used as bait for catching the fish.

"The dwellings here are largely of antique designs, and on some of the highest points are built hospitals for the insane; commodious hotels fitted up with all available comforts are to be found at every park; electric railways are now being run to the lake and there is about to be constructed a line that will reach from central Illinois.

"What is said to be one of the oldest towns in the northwest is that of Geneva, a dilapidated looking place of about three thousand inhabitants. In early days this was the only trading place for many miles around, and it was nothing then for a man or woman to drive one hundred miles to do shopping at Geneva, with only an ox team for conveyance. And yet the remaining old settlers delight in telling of 'those happy early days.'"

CECILIA A. M. BLAKE, Woodstock, Ill.

The St. Lawrence river has been often described, but nevertheless its wonders seem ever new and fresh with every return of summer.

"No better season of the year than the present could be chosen for a trip through the far-famed Thousand Islands to Montreal, the metropolis of Canada, and to quaint old Quebec. Starting from Clayton, we took the steamer for Montreal, through the famous rapids of the St. Lawrence. Our steamer passed successfully Round Island and Thousand Island Park and made its first stop at Alexandria Bay. Short calls were made at Brockville, Prescott, and Morrisburg, and then the Long Sault Rapids come into view. These rapids are nine miles in length, and contain the heaviest swells on the river. Near the foot of the rapids is the noted Indian village of St Regis. The next entered are the Coteau rapids, two miles in length, but very swift in places. A few miles further down are Cedar rapids and the Split Rock Rapid, the most difficult of all for navigation. Then come the Cascade Rapids, with their white crests, near the foot of which, as we pass close to an island on the left, is the swiftest current in the river. We soon passed under the Canadian Pacific Railway bridge and were dashed through the Lachine Rapids, the last and most exciting. Shortly after we reached Quebec and while there visited the spot where the American General Montgomery fell in trying to capture the city in 1775 and the Plains of Abraham where the great battle was fought which resulted in the defeat of the French.

"On our return we visited Montreal and saw a few of the principal objects of interest, including the great French Cathedral of Notre Dame, which in size, in its magnificent altars and valuable paintings, is probably the finest cathedral in all Canada. Our trip up the elevator to the top of Mount Royal, which commands a view of nearly the entire city, was quite exciting. The great monument to the English Admiral Nelson was next seen, and then we turned our faces homeward."

MAGGIE WILSON, Chaumont, New York.

Here is a description of a sight which would be novel enough to most of us.



IN the long lane that stretches past my home there may be seen each Sabbath morning a procession, one might call it, they come so constantly—of grotesquely attired people wending their way to church. It takes these Russian Polanders but a short time to learn and copy American customs, for those who have been here four or five years are dressed almost like Americans, ride in buggies and drive some really beautiful horses. But those who have lived in this country only a short time, especially the women, are dressed in every conceivable manner. Some wear—regardless of the season—wool, some bright colored lawns and calicoes, and one whom we often see is attired in dirty, white challie, bedecked with ribbon of many colors, while on her head she wears a yellow straw hat trimmed with a wreath of faded flowers.

"The women wear heavy, high-heeled boots, skirts that reach nearly to their ankles and thick, spotted wool coats to their knees. Some wear on their heads large red and white figured handkerchiefs, while others glory in the possession of many colored shawls. Boys not more than six years of age are clad in full-length trousers, shirts and suspenders—miniature men.

"These are the latest arrivals and some of them walk several miles through snow or dust, rain or sun, to be present at the morning service. Consequently their church is largely attended, while a wedding has but little attraction for them.

"When these people first come to the New World many of them are really cruel; they will seldom go for a physician if a very old woman or a small child falls ill. 'No good; can't work,' they say. One man came to town for a pine box, in which to bury a child; he had three others made. He said: 'Got three more childs sick; all goin' to die, have boxes ready.'

"But wishing to appear as well as Americans they soon adopt, to a certain extent, our mode of living and dressing."

ORMA V. EAVES, Bremond, Texas.

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The International Conference of the Christian Endeavor Society meets this month in London, Eng. The record of the meetings must be read in order to appreciate the phenomenal growth and influence of this organization.

Fourth of July! Our gunpowder circles the world in honor of Freedom's birthday. It is true that part of the circle has been blazing all the year in order to create an interest in our birthday and that in other parts the powder to celebrate must pay a duty of fifteen per cent. But these are minor sounds beside the screeching of our eagle. We have so much more room to make noise in that we must per force make more noise. We sometimes have a few doubts about being right but we never have any about going ahead. For that reason we have a glorious Fourth and we are proud of it.

Since 1899, Andrew Carnegie has given over $7,000,000 towards the founding of libraries. It is a somewhat peculiar fact that Mr. Carnegie will not give a cent towards the support or maintenance of hospitals. It seems to be his idea that the advancement of the world can only come through the young and strong. Whatever can be done to benefit the active workers of the world he does. It shows a touch of the extreme scientific theory that future ages will consider it no kindness to the world at large to prolong life that ceases to be a pleasure to itself or a profit to the world. We can be scientific in the abstract and see that "survival of the fittest" may mean the development of the race, but the average humanity can not hold this theory in concrete. For that reason hospitals are likely to be well supported even though Mr. Carnegie systematically refuses to give money to them.

The miniature has become fashionable again. These dainty little portraits are a revival of a form of art very popular in the early part of the eighteenth century. Many young women artists are making large sums of money in depicting nineteenth century graces in eighteenth century manner. One wonders in looking at miniatures of famous beauties if the type of beauty has really changed as much as would appear by placing an old miniature beside a modern "Gibson Girl". The sloping shoulders have become square and erect, the pensive air has become piquant or pert—in fact the whole face and figure are changed. The cover of the popular novel, Janice Meredith, is ornamented by a charming miniature and much curiosity has been aroused by it. Many people have thought it a reproduction of an old colonial miniature and have questioned as to the original. It seems that an artist friend of the author, Paul Leicester Ford, heard the heroine of the novel described. Gradually as Janice was portrayed by the author she became a reality in the mind of the artist and the beautiful miniature was the result.

We may listen to the bird music of the summer with the feeling that some few points have been gained in the struggle to protect these little brothers of the air. Only a short time ago the most optimistic of their friends felt that our song birds and wild birds would fast become exterminated by the cruel fiat of fashion. Attempts to stop the use of birds for millinery purposes by appeals to women seemed useless. The New York State Legislature in its last session passed an act to protect the birds. To find the feathers of wild or song birds in any one's possession was to have that person guilty of a misdemeanor. At about the same time the Lacey Bill passed the House. This humane measure prohibits the importation of birds from one state to another or their passage from one state through another except as the laws of that state admit. These laws are just and righteous. It is rather a sad fact that it has been necessary to appeal to a body of men in order to place mercy above millinery. It is true that many of the best women of the land have worked hard for the passage of this bill, but it is no less true that it is the vanity of women that has forced legislation on this subject.

A recent peculiar phase of public feeling has shown itself in an attempt to revive the whipping post as a method of punishing certain forms of crime. Delaware has always retained her whipping post. The system has found warm advocates in this country. The claim is made that we are weakly sentimental in our modern ideas of the treatment of criminals, and that whipping is the natural punishment for wife-beating and for brutal treatment of other varieties. Fear of results has never proven a restraining motive with the criminal class. If this were not so murder would cease, but even the certainty of loss of life does not prohibit the crime. In the seventeenth century there were over two hundred offences punishable with death in England, yet crime was of more frequent occurrence than to-day. Severe punishment brutalizes those who receive it. It does not correct or restrain. The English parliament recently refused to pass a bill re-establishing whipping as a punishment. Many reputable papers have advocated this. The spirit of brutality that seems to follow war has infected both England and America. This revival of the whipping post idea has resulted. People are not civilized through their skin but through their heads and hearts. Where no other means of punishment are available the whip may find a temporary place. England and America are not in the same scale of civilization as Russia and China. To revive the whipping post is to confess that our boasted superior humanity and civilization are but names.

Two statues that are to be sent from America to the Paris Exposition are arousing somewhat unfavorable comment for different reasons. A statue of Lafayette in bronze is to be presented to the French government. Over $100,000 has been raised for this work and many people are asking what is to be done with that sum of money. Competent authorities declare that $50,000 will provide a statue of bronze. The answer made to this criticism has been that silver and gold are to be added to the composition. The thought that prompted the collection of money and the presentation of the statue was a most admirable one. The name of Lafayette is dear to every American. His influence, his youth, his bravery and the romantic incidents of his life after he returned to France combine to make of him an ideal hero. It is to be deplored that any mismanagement of funds or carelessness in expenditure has called forth criticism of what was primarily a gracious act. The "gold statue" has also aroused a fair degree of interest and a larger degree of criticism. This statue is to be exhibited by a firm who have had the casting made of nearly two hundred thousand dollars' worth of the yellow metal. They are to call the statue "The Typical American Girl," and for the model have selected the popular actress, Miss Maude Adams. It is said that other stage favorites offered as high as $20,000 for the privilege of acting as a model. Miss Adams is of slight, undeveloped figure—in fact, only her charm of manner saves her from the epithet "scrawny." As it is people say "spirituelle." Now the modern American girl is an athletic young woman at home, on the golf links, the tennis ground, the wheel, or on horseback. She is actually almost as tall as the leading illustrators in black and white make her. To place such a tiny little lady as Miss Adams as a type of this young Amazon is the height of absurdity. The "Golden Girl" should bear a faint resemblance to the average young American woman. Miss Adams does not—and so the protest rises.

In these days when it seems the fashion to deplore the want of artistic culture in this country and to depreciate our art, our literature and our music, a strong contrary opinion is appreciated. There are people who refuse to believe that we are as crude and commercial as our ultra refined critics would strive to make us appear. A generous spirited man, Mr. Hurley of Brooklyn, is making a most practical demonstration of his belief in American art. He has been known among artists for years as a generous and intelligent patron of American art. In that time he has made one of the finest collections in America of representative and contemporary American pictures. Every prominent American artist is represented by from one to three and four specimens of his best work. Mr. Hurley next conceived the idea of hanging this valuable collection of pictures in the public schools of the city. He sends his men and hangs the pictures, leaving them for about a month. During this period the people of this vicinity are given the opportunity to view the collection. In one of the High Schools short art lectures were given by two of the most prominent artists represented in the collection. These men made rapid sketches in oil and explained the method of work, afterwards presenting the pictures to the school. During the summer Mr. Hurley proposes to place the collection in some vacation school in the crowded part of the city where the people have no opportunity to see Nature. The work is a noble one in many respects. To the more cultured portions of the community it demonstrates the fact that modern American art need not fear comparison with the best work of foreign artists. It makes a deep and lasting impression upon the children who for a whole month are face to face with all that is best in the art life of the country. It brings a glow of brightness and hope to the dwellers in city slums and does a missionary work as far-reaching as it is subtle and intangible. Back of all the altruistic thought is the sound Americanism of the man who believes in American art and shows his belief in the way that our critics claim is our standard—by paying for it. All honor to the man who can be practical and philanthropic at one and the same time. Some thousands of American children will grow up with an admiration for American art and an appreciation of it that dates to the time when this magnificent collection of Mr. Hurley's adorned the walls of their schoolrooms.

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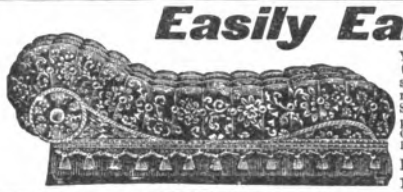
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165	American Liberty March	Cook
101	Ancients Abroad. March—Two Step	Cook
247	Artist's Life Waltzes	Strauss
181	Auld Lang Syne. Variations	Durkee
187	Austrian Song. Op. 69, 1	Pacher
215	Battle of Waterloo. Descriptive	Anderson
179	Beauties of Paradise Waltz. 4 hands	Streabbog
227	Beautiful Blue Danube Waltzes	Strauss
65	Bells of Corneville. Potpourri	Elson
213	Black Hawk Waltzes	Walsh
257	Blue Bells of Scotland. Trans.	Richards
221	Bluebird Echo Polka	Morrison
199	Boston Commandery March	Carter
109	Bridal March from Lohengrin	Wagner
229	Bryan and Sewall March	Noles
133	Cadences and Scales in all Keys	Czerny
1	Catherine Waltzes	Stroh
255	Cavaleria Rusticana. Four hands.	Mascagni
237	Cherokee Roses Waltz. 4 hands.	Behr
145	Clayton (Adjutant) March—Two Step	Missud
217	Cleveland's March	Noles
81	Coming from the Races Galop	Wheeler
211	Corn Flower Waltzes	Coote, Jr
41	Crack Four March.	Ashton
71	Crystal Dew Waltz	Durkee
235	Day Dawn Polka	Cook
163	Dewey's Grand Triumphal March	Marcel
117	Echoing Trumpets March	Noles
121	Electric Light Galop	Durkee
91	Estella, Air de Ballet. Very fine.	Robinson
107	Ethel Polka	Simons
155	Evergreen Waltz	Stoddard
231	Faust. Selections	Durkee
77	Fifth Nocturne	Leybach
233	Flirting in the Starlight. Waltz	Lasalde
239	Flower Song. Op. 39.	Lange
97	Fresh Life	Spindler
177	Frolic of the Frogs.	Watson
49	Full of Ginger. March Galop.	Nutting
183	Golden Rain. Nocturne	Cloy
147	Grand Commandery March—Two Step	Missud
53	Greeting of Spring, op. 21	Schultze
185	Her Bright Smile Haunts Me Still	Richards
173	Hobson of the Merrimac Waltzes	Jewell
139	Home, Sweet Home. Transcription	Slack
17	Impassioned Dream Waltzes	Rosas
153	Jenny Lind polka. Four hands	Muller
157	Last Hope. Meditation	Gottschalk
195	Leap Year Schottische	Kahn
253	Le Petit Bal. Polka Mazurka.	Behr
159	Lee's (Gen'l) "On to Cuba" galop	Durkee
249	Lohengrin. Selections	Durkee
141	London March—Two Step	Missua
99	Maiden's Prayer, The	Badarzewske
45	March Winds Galop	Mansfield
240	Martha Selections	Johnson
207	May Breezes. Four hands	Krug
225	McKinley and Hobart March	Turner
55	Memorial Day March	Hewitt
131	Monastery Bells. Nocturne	Welty
89	Morning Dew, op. 18	Smith
61	Morning Star Waltz	Zahn
201	Music Box, The. Caprice	Liebich
137	My Love Polka	Zichrer
125	My Old Kentucky Home. Variations	Cook
87	National Anthems of Eight Great Nations	
175	National Songs of America	Blake
135	Nightingale's Trill, op. 81	Kullak
123	Old Folks at Home. Transcription	Blake
171	Old Oaken Bucket, The. Variations	Durkee
219	On the Wave Waltz	Dinsmore
197	Oregon, Queen of the Sea. Two-step	Robinson
245	Orvetta Waltz	Spencer
9	Our Little Agnes. Waltz	Gregoire
191	Over the Waves Waltz	Rosas
79	Please Do Waltz	Durkee
193	Poet and Peasant Overture (Suppe)	Brunner
167	Red, White and Blue Forever. March	Blake
143	Richmond March—two-step	Missud
245	Rustic Waltz	Schumann
127	Rustling Leaves. Idylle	Lange
39	Ruth, Esther and Marion Schottische.	Cohen
149	Salem Witches March—Two-Step	Missud
189	Schubert's Serenade. Transcription	Liszt
161	Silvery Waves. Variations	Wyman
169	Smith's (General) March	Martin
31	Song of the Voyager	Paderewski
22	Souvenir March Song of 1895 K. T. Parade	Dow
95	Spirit Lake Waltz	Simons
151	Storm, The. Imitation of Nature	Weber
73	Storm Mazurka	Keefer
109	Sultan's Band March.	Brown
209	Sweet Long Ago Transcription	Blake
115	Tornado Galop	Arbuckle
103	Triffet's Grand March, op. 182	Wedel
223	Twilight Echoes. Song without words	Jewell
113	Under the Double Eagle March	Wagner
129	Venetian Waltz	Ludovic
205	Village Parade Quickstep	Allen
7	Visions of Light. Waltz	Cook
203	Warblings at Eve	Richards
93	Waves of the Ocean March	Blake
59	Wedding March	Mendelssohn
251	Winsome Grace. A perfect gem.	Howe
119	Woodland Whispers Waltzes	Stanley
105	Zephyr Waltz.	Bragg

No.	VOICE AND PIANO OR ORGAN.	
236	Across the Bridge	Le Brunn
2	Annie's Love. Duet for Sop. and Ten.	Winter
27	Ave Maria, From Cavalleria Rusticana	Mascagni
140	Beacon Light of Home	Estabrooke
134	Beautiful Moonlight. Duet	Glover
238	Bells of Seville	H. Jude
162	Ben Bolt, of "Trilby" fame	Kneass
226	Blue Eyes	Elson
246	Boyhood Days, Chorus	Fritz
200	Bridge, The. Words by Longfellow	Carew
192	Can You, Sweetheart, Keep a Secret?	Estabrooke
214	Childhood's Happy Hours	Dinsmore
138	Christmas Carol	Turner
190	Come When the Soft Twilight Falls	Schumann
168	Coon's Breach of Promise. Cake walk	Blake
92	Cow Bells, The. Boyhood's Recollection	Grimm
250	Darling I Shall Miss You	Cohen
176	Darling Nellie Gray	Hanby
70	Dear Heart, We're Growing Old	Estabrooke
128	Don't drink, my Boy, to-night. Temp.	Hoover
256	Dwelling with the Angels. Chorus.	Turner
50	Easter Eve. Sacred	Gounod
220	Ever Sweet is Thy Memory	Hosfeld
19	'E Dunno Where 'E Are. Comic	Eplett
72	Ellaline. Waltz song	Betts
180	Far Away	Bliss
182	Father is Drinking Again. Temperance	
126	Far from the Hearthstone	Messer
152	Flag of Our Country. Patriotic	Mathot
156	Flag, The. Quartette	Fox
144	Flirting in the Starlight	Delano
8	Flossie. Waltz Song	Cohen
138	For a Dream's Sake	Cowen
36	For the Colors. Patriotic	Wilson
66	For You We are Praying at Home	Estabrooke
166	From our Home the Loved are Going	Percy
202	Give a Kiss to Me	Percy
178	God Bless My Kind Old Mother	Jewell
204	Golden Moon	Ivan
150	Gypsy Countess. Duet	Glover
198	Heart of My Heart	Robinson
184	I Can't Forget the Happy Past	Skelly
74	In Sweet September	Temple
248	In Shadowland	Pinsuti
188	In the Starlight. Duet	Glover
28	Juanita. Ballad	May
242	Kathleen Mavourneen	Crouch
196	Killarney	Balfe
132	Kiss me, but don't say goodbye	Rutledge
130	Kiss that bound my Heart to thine	Keil
164	Larboard Watch. Duet	Williams
146	Listen to the Mocking Bird	Hawthorne
48	Little Boy Blue. Solo or Duet	Estabrooke
154	Little Voices at the Door	Danks
96	Lost Chord, The	Sullivan
40	Love Ever Faithful	Buculossi
25	Lurline, Do you think of me now?	Estabrooke
234	Margaretta	Balfe
112	Massa's Sleeping in de Churchyard	Keeler
230	Memories of my Mother. Chorus	Allen
30	Mission of a Rose, The. Song	Cowen
52	Mother's Cry, A. (Salvation Army)	Adriance
172	Mother's Welcome at the Door	Estabrooke
222	Musical Dialogue Duet	Helmund
232	Must the Sweet Tie that binds	Estabrooke
76	My Home by the Old Mill	O'Halloran
110	My Little Lost Irene	Danks
170	My Old Kentucky Home	Foster
216	Oh, Sing Again that Gentle Strain,	Dinsmore
228	Old Folks at Home (Swanee Ribber)	Foster
60	Old Glory. National	Woods
102	Old Sexton, The	Russell
104	On the Banks of the Beautiful River	Estabrooke
90	On the Beach. Most beautiful ballad	Robinson
160	Outcast, An. Character Song	Fritz
174	Parted from our Dear Ones	Keller
254	Picture of My Mother, The	Skelly
148	Poor Girl didn't know. Comic.	Cooke
56	Precious Treasure. Song and Dance	Weiler
136	Request. Sacred	Grainger
208	Rocked in the Cradle of the Deep	Knight
142	Rosemonde	Chaminade
80	See Those Living Pictures	Guth
224	Shall I Ever See Mother's Face Again?	Adriance
194	She Sleeps among the Daisies	Dinsmore
124	Softly shine the Stars of Evening	Dinsmore
210	Son's Return, The	Fritz
120	Storm at Sea. Descriptive	Hullah
10	Sweetest Song, The	Denza
32	Sweet Long Ago, The	Estabrooke
46	That Word was Hope. Waltz song	Nutting
118	There's a Rainbow in the Clouds	Danks
206	There's Sure to be a Way	Delano
158	Thinking of Home and Mother	Cohen
116	'Tis True, Dear Heart, We're Fading	Estabrooke
108	Tread softly, the Angels are calling	Turner
38	True to the Last	Adams
64	Vicar of Bray, The. Old English Song	
62	Your Mother's Love for You	Koppt
252	Warrior Bold	Adams
84	What are the Wild Waves Saying? Duet	Glover
58	When the Roses are Blooming Again	Skelly
86	When Winter Days Have Gone	Trayne
186	Whistling Wife, The. Comic	Randall
212	Why am I ever Watching	de Lasaide
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MUSIC OLD AND NEW.

"Dido and Eneas" one of the earliest English musical plays, written several centuries ago by D'Urfey and Tate, was recently performed in London by musical students under the direction of Ellen Terry's son, Gordon Craig. At the same time Sir Arthur Sullivan was directing the performance of "The Mikado" in the Royal Opera House in Berlin. This is bringing into immediate notice the vast difference of styles of old and modern opera.

In many musical articles COMFORT has plainly shown its readers how fickle the popular taste in music is; and how rapidly music set to any given idea wears itself out. But it will be noticed that standards of any line of music always hold the public heart and are never entirely forgotten.

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WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.

THERE is an old idea which has often been used at church socials and small parties, which with a slight variation might be used again as a novel and easy way of entertaining a small or medium sized party of more or less musically inclined people. The idea referred to is that of the "Art Gallery," which contains "Study of Fish in Oils," represented by a box of sardines; "A Bridal Scene," represented by a bridle hung up; "The Flower of the Family," a sifter full of flour, etc. The variation of the idea would be to have musical terms and phrases represented in the same way.

A small musical club worked this out with great success at one of its meetings.

As we came into the room each lady was given a card, jaggedly cut, on which was written the name of some familiar musical work or composition, as, for instance, the "Messiah," the "Spring Song," The "Melody in F," the "Fifth Symphony," etc., and each gentleman was given a similar half card on which the name of a composer was written. Then the search for partners began. Sometimes composer and composition would match but the jagged edges of the cards would not; sometimes the cards fitted together, but the composer and his work were not properly mated; so the hunt for partners was not as simple as it appeared to be at first. As soon as the companion for the evening was found, the couples went, three or four at a time, into an adjoining room, where each person was handed a sheet of foolscap on which were twenty-eight numbers, one on each line, and a lead pencil. In the center of the room was a large table on which there was a motley collection of objects numbered from one to twenty-eight. No one was allowed to remain in the room over ten minutes, and no talking was permitted; so every one set to work at once to guess what musical terms or phrases the articles on the table represented, and to write down his guesses on the paper in his hand, opposite the corresponding numbers.

The ten minutes up, we gave our papers to the doorkeeper, keeping our fancy pencils as souvenirs, and went back into the parlors. But before re-entering them each one had a name pinned upon his back, and spent part of the evening trying to find out what musical celebrity he or she was—for Patti, Paderewski, Aus der Ohe, Nordica, Maurel, Tamagno, De Lussan, Emma Eames, Melba, and Maud Morgan, several noted violinists, singers and composers, besides a number of local musicians, choral and orchestral leaders well known to the young people present, wandered about the rooms, trying to discover who they were by the remarks made to them and about them by the assembled company, who attempted to be very mystical and very learned in their conversation about the musical celebrities present.

When all had returned their papers to the doorkeeper there was a wait of a few minutes and then the judge announced the names of the prize winners. Copies of a well-known musical work were given to the young lady and young man who had made out the most complete lists of the objects on the table. During the evening an informal musical programme had been rendered, and, of course, some dainty refreshments were served, with the accompaniment of instrumental music. The articles on the table were:

1. A quire of paper.
2. Three little dolls dressed alike and looking alike.
3. A carpenter's brace.
4. A watch.
5. A razor.
6. The chin rest from a violin.
7. A card on which was written XL.
8. A name written on a sheet of paper.
9. A pair of apothecary's scales.
10. The base taken from a table bell.
11. A peck measure with two beets.
12. A heavy string.
13. A flatiron with the letter B on its face.
14. A cardboard letter C hung from the gas fixture.
15. A lump of tar.
16. A pipe stem.
17. A large half-tone engraving.
18. A bank note.
19. A baby's shoe with an O on the sole.
20. A stout cane.
21. A love letter which starts out bravely, but has a large blot half way down the page.
22. A necktie.
23. A box of iron.
24. A door key.
25. A pocket rule.
26. A twenty-five-cent-piece with a black court plaster dot pasted on it.
27. A small bunch of flowers and a lock of hair tied with a ribbon.
28. A circular piece of cardboard cut into three equal pieces.

The musical terms these things were supposed to represent were:

1. A choir.	11. Two beats in a measure.	21. Accidental.
2. Triplets.	12. Chord.	22. Tie.
3. Brace.	13. B flat.	23. Bar.
4. Time.	14. High C.	24. Key.
5. A sharp.	15. Pitch.	25. Measure.
6. A rest.	16. Stem.	26. Dotted quarter.
7. Forte.	17. Half tone.	27. Natural.
8. Signature.	18. Note.	28. Thirds.
9. Scales.	19. Solo.	
10. Bass.	20. Staff.	

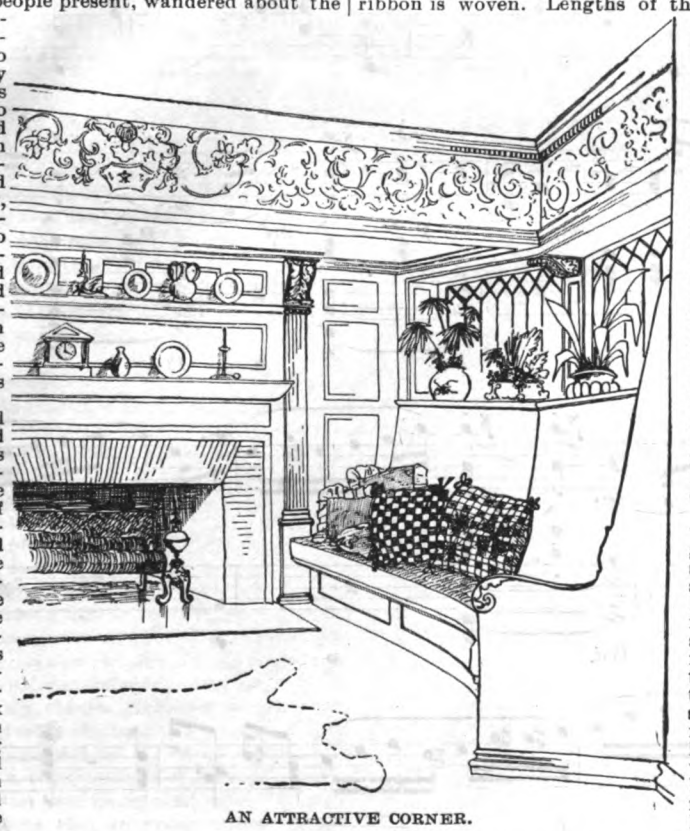
One of the readers of this column has sent in a suggestion which she calls the "Charity Box." She says:

"At house cleaning time is a good chance to start this. Have a box ready, and when looking over the wardrobe put in all the garments that the children have outgrown, or which for any other reason you would lay aside. If possible, put in good repair and have all clean, and then at any time you have a call to help the poor, you know just what you have to give, and where it is. If you have not time to repair them, possibly a friend would gladly do it for her share of kindness."

The same one suggests the following way of cleaning bottles: Cut potato parings very fine and fill the bottle with same; let stand a day or two when they will ferment and remove all the stains, leaving the inside of the bottle as clean as when new.

We have seen a number of new covers for soft pillows recently—one of which is made of dark blue and white checked gingham, the checks measuring an inch across. The illustration shows a sofa pillow with one of these covers, and though it is small, it gives an idea of the shape of the figures, which are made of No. 12 Dexter cotton yarn, white, and the cover is just as pretty after having been laundered as when first made, which is one thing, at least, in its favor. On the outside all around the darkest squares are crossed and a short stitch taken over the center of all the stitches; a row of these stars are between each large figure, and the center of the pillow is the same. In the large figures there are two patterns used; in each corner the round figure is made; between each corner are made three of the other pattern. The foundations of each of these patterns are the same, the foundation is first made, and before making any of the stitches stretch the cloth onto embroidery rings; this is the only way you can keep the work smooth. For the ruffle and back use plain gingham to match the square that is blue and white mixed; one-half yard of the check makes two tops if 32 inches wide and 1 1-2 yard of plain makes back and ruffle for two pillows. Each of the large figures uses nine of the white squares; be sure and start the corners with white checks.

Another cushion, also shown, is made of inch wide satin ribbon in two colors,—crimson and white having been used in our model. The children in the Kindergarten make mats of colored strips of paper in the same way this ribbon is woven. Lengths of the ribbon are cut to go entirely across both sides of the cushion to be covered, and then are woven in and out until the entire cover is made. Bunches of the two colors of ribbon are made for each corner of the cushion. A very beautiful combination is of yellow and white, but of course it is exceedingly delicate.



AN ATTRACTIVE CORNER.

For those who use a great many sofa pillows, and who have a feeling that they are always re-covering them to keep them presentable, the new handkerchiefs will be a blessing for one can have three or four pillows covered with them and yet not feel that they are rushing a good thing too much.

These handkerchiefs are of China silk, square, and printed with a design which has a border three or four inches deep of a plain color,—red, navy blue, purple or green; the center is of white with polka dots in it of the color used in border. The handkerchief has a narrow stitched hem. The pillow is laid on the handkerchief cross-wise, so that the four corners all meet in the center on one side and the edges are simply sewed up, over and over, with silk to match the border, and the thing is complete, showing a polka-dotted surface on one side the pillow, and a dark color on the other. A pillow may be covered in twenty minutes and when the cover is soiled can as easily be removed, washed and put back. These handkerchiefs cost fifty cents each, and while not of very heavy silk, would stand three or four washings before breaking out. They are of the right size to cover an eighteen-inch down pillow.



This illustration shows the machine closed, to be used as a center table, stand or desk.

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CHILDREN are always fond of ices. I once heard a very pat story on this point, which will bear repeating.

The mother of two bright boys said to them one morning: "We are going to have ice cream for dinner to-night, when the minister and his wife will be here. Now please don't act as though this were an unusual thing, but as though you had it every day." Accordingly, when the ice cream was served, the children, being specially anxious to please their mamma, shouted out at the top of their lungs "We have it every day! we have it every day!"

At a luncheon not long ago, the dessert was frozen pudding, and it was served in cantaloupe, which was a new idea to some of the guests. Small nutmeg cantaloupes were used, one-half served to each guest, on a doiley-covered plate, and the center was filled with the frozen cream, making a delicious combination and very attractive one—easy to serve and easy to eat.

At this season of the year ices and cold desserts of all kinds appeal to the palate; hygienically speaking, they cannot be recommended for the final course of a dinner, as they reduce the temperature of the stomach and thus retard digestion; but how refreshing they are, and, when eaten slowly they are also nourishing. The different kinds of frozen dishes are called Water Ice—which is fruit juice, sweetened, diluted with water and frozen. Sherbet, which is water ice to which is added some dissolved gelatine or the beaten whites of eggs. Frappe, which is water ice frozen to the consistency of mush. Punch, which is water ice to which has been added spirit and spice. Sorbet, which is, strictly speaking, frozen punch—the name usually given to a water ice where several kinds of fruit have been used. Ice cream, of two kinds—the first which is thin cream, sweetened, flavored and frozen, and the other which is a custard foundation, flavored and frozen. Mousse—which is heavy cream, beaten until stiff, sweetened, flavored, placed in a mould, packed in equal parts of salt and ice and allowed to stand for three hours.

We have some delicious recipes which we hope will be new to at least some of our readers.

RASPBERRY ICE.

Four cups water, one and two-thirds cups sugar, two cups raspberry juice and two tablespoons lemon juice. Make a syrup by boiling the water and sugar twenty minutes, cool, add raspberries mashed and squeezed through double cheese cloth, and lemon juice. Strain and freeze.

CURRANT ICE.

Four cups water, one and one-half cups sugar, two cups currant juice. Prepare same as raspberry ice.

MILK SHERBET.

Four cups milk, one and one-half cups sugar, juice of three lemons. Mix the juice and the sugar, stirring constantly while slowly adding the milk; freeze.

PINEAPPLE FRAPPE.

Two cups water, one cup sugar, juice of three lemons, four cups ice water, one can grated



ROMAN PUNCH.

pineapple, or one pineapple shredded. Make a syrup by boiling water and sugar fifteen minutes; add pineapple and lemon juice, cool, strain, add icewater and freeze to a mush, using equal parts of salt and ice. If fresh fruit is used, more sugar will be needed.

ROMAN PUNCH.

Four cups water, two cups sugar, one-half cup lemon juice, one-half cup orange juice, one-half cup tea infusion, one-half cup rum. Make a syrup by boiling water and sugar twenty minutes, add fruit juice and tea and freeze to a mush; then add the rum and continue the freezing.

SORBET.

Two cups water, two cups sugar, one grated pineapple, one and one-third cups orange juice, one-half cup lemon juice, one quart Apollinaris. Prepare and freeze same as pineapple frappe.

VANILLA ICE CREAM I.

One quart thin cream, three-fourths cup sugar, one and one-half tablespoons vanilla. Mix the ingredients and freeze.

VANILLA ICE CREAM II.

Two cups scalded milk, one tablespoon flour, one cup sugar, one egg, one-eighth teaspoon salt, one quart thin cream, two tablespoons vanilla. Mix the flour, sugar and salt, add the egg slightly beaten, and milk gradually; cook in double boiler twenty minutes, stirring constantly at first; when cool add cream and flavoring, strain and freeze.

COFFEE ICE CREAM.

One quart cream, one and one-half cups milk, one-third cup coffee, one and one-fourth cups sugar, one-fourth teaspoon salt, yolks of four eggs. Scald the milk with the coffee, add one cup sugar; mix yolks of eggs with one-fourth cup sugar and salt; combine mixtures, cook over hot water until thickened, add one cup cream and let stand on back of range twenty-five minutes; cool, add remaining cream and strain through double cheese cloth; freeze.

BROWN BREAD ICE CREAM.

Three pints cream, one and one-fourth cups dried brown bread crumbs, seven-eighths cup sugar, one-fourth teaspoon salt. Soak the crumbs in one quart cream, let stand fifteen minutes, rub through sieve, add sugar, salt and remaining cream and freeze.

FROZEN PUDDING.

Two and one-half cups milk, one cup sugar, one-eighth teaspoon salt, two eggs, one cup thick cream, one-fourth cup rum, one cup candied fruit—cherries, pineapple, pears and apricots.

Cut the fruit in pieces and soak several hours in brandy to cover, which prevents the fruit from freezing; make a custard of the milk, sugar, salt and eggs, strain, cool, add the cream and rum and then freeze. Fill a brick mould with alternate layers of the cream and fruit and pack in salt and ice and let stand two hours.

STRAWBERRY MOUSSE.

One quart thin cream, one box berries, one cup sugar, one-fourth box gelatine, two tablespoons cold water, three tablespoons hot water. Wash and hull the berries, sprinkle with sugar and let stand one hour; mash and rub through



ICE SERVED IN CANTALOUPE.

fine sieve, add gelatine, which has been soaked in cold and dissolved in boiling water; set in pan of ice water and stir until it begins to thicken. Whip the cream and fold into the mixture, put in mould, cover and pack in salt and ice and let stand four hours.

Raspberries may be used instead of strawberries—otherwise using the same ingredients as above.

COFFEE MOUSSE.

Make same as strawberry mousse, using one cup boiled coffee in place of the fruit juice.

FROZEN CHOCOLATE.

Melt two squares chocolate, add one-half cup sugar, a few grains salt and one cup boiling water; boil until smooth and then add three cups scalded milk. Cool and freeze. Serve in glasses with beaten cream.

We have had several requests for the recipe for Elderberry Blow Wine, which we gave a year ago.

Gather the flowers of the elderberry and let them stay on the stems over night; then shake them off onto a paper and pack them solidly into a quart measure.

Pour three gallons boiling water on nine pounds granulated sugar, and add the quart of blows; when cool, add one yeast cake. Let the covered crock stand in a cool place, and stir with a wooden spoon every day for a week; then strain, add three pounds raisins cut; let stand five or six weeks (in the cellar, preferably) then strain again, add one pint best whiskey and bottle, putting a raisin into each bottle.

In the New England States the blows are in condition to gather about July first.

As it is exceedingly hard to keep this wine from turning sour, while it is in process of making, it is a good idea to taste of it before adding the whiskey, for if it is sour, you will only waste your whiskey by adding it. It is a good plan to stir it once a week, when it is in the cellar, and taste of it, also, and if there seems to be a tendency toward sourness, add the whiskey and bottle at once, without waiting for the full time given in the recipe. If it should happen to sour don't throw it away, but keep it in the crock, covered with a piece of cheese cloth instead of the crock cover, and it will make excellent vinegar. When this wine is ready for use, it tastes not unlike sweet sherry, and is a beautiful amber in color. After once having bottled, it will keep indefinitely, improving with age.

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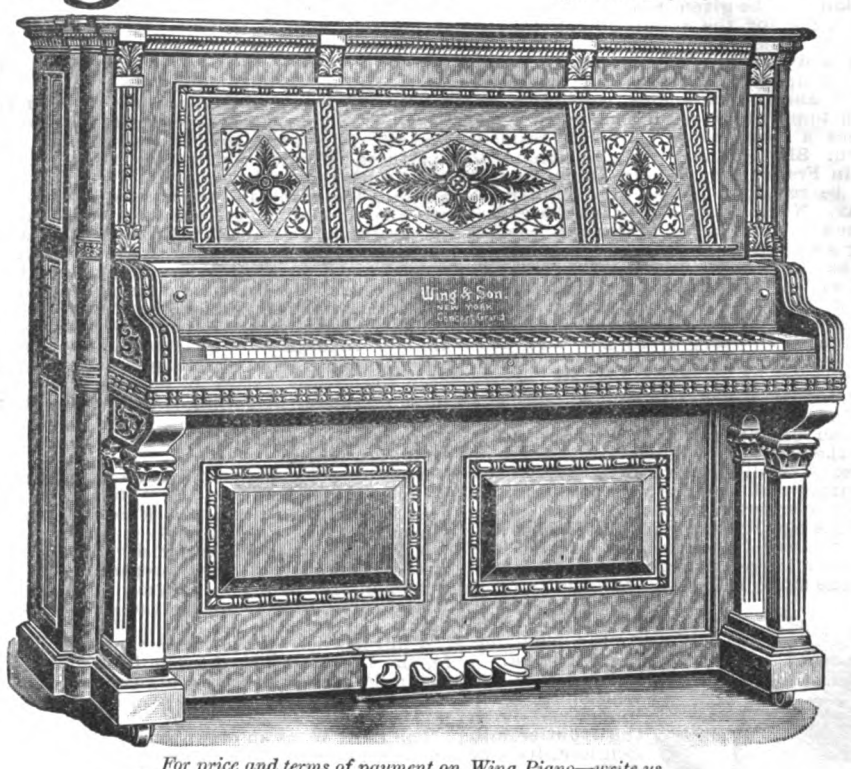
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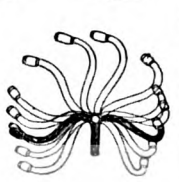
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THE Touring Club of France is made up of wheelmen, a great many of whom are residents of other countries. There are a number of members in this country. The Touring Club of France is an organization corresponding to the League of American Wheelmen in the United States, and comprises over seventy-five thousand active members. The annual membership fee is five francs for persons living in France and six francs for non-residents. There are delegates of the Touring Club of France at New York, Boston, Philadelphia and other cities in the United States. All that is necessary for an American wheelman to do in order to become a member of the Touring Club of France is to fill up one of the printed forms of application, get it endorsed by two members of the Touring Club and send it with a postal order for six francs to the "Secretary of the Touring Club de France, No. 10 Place de la Bourse, Paris." The Secretary will, if desired, send the card of identity and badge of the organization to any United States consulate or Banking House, or to the care of any transatlantic steamship company, to await the applicant's arrival in France. If preferred, the card and badge can, of course, be sent to any address in the United States, but considerable time can be gained by having them sent to the port of arrival in France or to some address on that side of the water.

Any American wheelman who takes the pains to become a member of the Touring Club of France will enjoy the advantages of cut rates at hotels and freedom from custom house and other formalities and annoyances in case the trip be extended beyond French territory into Belgium, Italy or Switzerland,



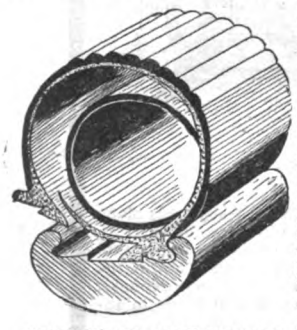
A NEW ADJUSTABLE HANDLEBAR.



and owing to the efforts of the Touring Club, the French Government has accorded to foreign wheelmen custom house privileges and exemption from the road tax on cycles.

The American member who is going over to France for a trip on the bicycle should have his wheel crated for the voyage. This will cost about $1.00 and the rate charged by the steamship company varies from $2.50 to $3.50 for a crated wheel. Should the wheelman not intend to remain in France over three months, he should make a declaration to that effect upon his arrival, and a certificate of such declaration will be given him. Twelve cents must be paid for the stamp affixed to this declaration, which the tourist should carry with him and be prepared to produce whenever called upon to do so by the police or municipal authorities. This certificate exempts the tourist from the French cycle tax of six francs a year imposed on all resident wheelmen. Should the wheelman intend to remain in France longer than three months he will be required to pay the regular six francs tax. No duties whatever are charged at the French custom house to foreign cyclists bringing wheels with them which bear visible signs of having been used.

The roads in France are the best in the world, but the grades are steep, and brakes are strongly recommended. There are sign posts with distances at every crossroad, and dangerous hills or turnings are indicated by warnings fixed on iron posts, for the special benefit of cyclists. First-rate maps compiled especially for wheelmen by the Touring Club of France, may be had on application at very reasonable prices at the Secretary's office, No. 10 Place de la Bourse. The diminutive little hand book of the touring club for the year 1900 contains the list of over seven thousand cities, towns and villages in France, with the names and prices of the best hotels or inns in each; the distance from the nearest railroad or telegraph station; the name of the "mecanicien" or cycle repairer, and the distance by road to the next important town.



SECTION OF NEW DOUBLE TUBE TIRE.

American wheelmen who intend to cross the frontier into Belgium, Italy or Switzerland should by all means become members of the Touring Club of France, for by a special agreement, accorded by the customs authorities of those countries, all bona fide tourists with cards of identity of the Touring Club of France, with the bearer's photograph and signature, and the maker's number of the bicycle, are exempted from all customs dues whatever, and can circulate freely without being subjected to the police annoyances sometimes enforced.

The rules of the road for wheelmen in France are very simple. Lighted lamps must be carried at night, and all cycles must be provided with bells. "Scorching" is prohibited in Paris and in most of the towns, but any pace is permissible on the main roads. All the railways in France, and most of the tramways, are obliged to accept bicycles as regular baggage and be responsible for any of them. The cost of transportation for a bicycle unpacked, accompanied by the rider, is only twenty centimes (four cents) no matter what may be the distance.

American wheelmen arriving by French steamer at Havre, by German steamer at Cherbourg or by American steamer at Southampton and thence to Dieppe would do well to send their trunks on to Paris and then mount their wheels for a delightful run through Normandy. The inns and hotels are fairly good as to sleeping accommodation, and the food is excellent. The secretary of the Touring Club of France and the delegates of that association are always glad to answer inquiries from American wheelmen who may be members of the Touring Club.

An inventor named Goss, mentioned by a Paris paper, proposes to adjust a harp of suitable dimensions to the frame of a bicycle between the rider's knees. Each harp string, or wire, would be provided with its own hammer, and the hammers would be operated by the spikes on a revolving cylinder, a music box cylinder in fact. The last mentioned portion of the apparatus would derive its movements from a special sprocket chain from the pedals.

"How often one hears it said by a rider who has exposed his machine to some severe and unnecessary strain, 'Oh, if a machine is any good, it ought to stand that,'" said a veteran dealer. "But there can be little doubt that in a large number of cases the root of the injury lay in some unfair usage to which no importance was attached at the moment. A case came under my notice of a machine of high grade which was roughly used for a considerable time, its experiences including one or two collisions with fences, which, however, did no discernible damage. But one fine day its owner returned minus two front teeth, left on a country road owing to a tube having given way. It must be remembered that the margin of safety in a bicycle is extraordinary small, and that the risks arising from the abuse of it are remarkably great."

A bicycle fitted with a novel form of tire has just been exhibited in Australia. It is a combination of the solid with the pneumatic, and it may be regarded as a pneumatic tire, having exceedingly thick walls at the tread—the portion which comes in contact with the ground. In section the rim is nearly a complete circle, and is filled with an ordinary pneumatic tube. Its outside circumference, however, is cut away and the metal bent outward to form two projecting parallel cheeks. The channel, or slot, between these contains a solid block or strip of India rubber, one side of which constitutes the tread, while the other is in contact with the pneumatic tube in the interior of the rim. In this way the inventor has aimed at combining the unpuncturable quality of the solid tire with the resiliency of the pneumatic. He further contends that, if the inside tube is by accident damaged and inflated, the bicycle is not rendered useless, and becomes practically a solid tire machine, since the solid strip has projecting flanges which catch on the outturned edges of the rim, and prevent it from being forced right into the slot, although unsupported by the pneumatic tube.

It is well every now and then to clean the bearings of your wheel thoroughly with paraffine oil. Squirt the paraffine all through the apertures by which you usually apply oil, and then, with the machine raised, give the wheels a spin. The crank and the hubs of both wheels are what should be particularly looked after. Be careful, however, that none of the oil reaches the tires. It is a good plan sometimes to give your chain a soaking in paraffine and afterwards work the links between your fingers and so drive out all particles of dust.

The habits of self-reliance and quick action are not capable of high-class cultivation in every person, but no matter how badly one has been slighted by Nature in her distribution of these qualities, bicycling will develop them. Alertness and quick comprehension are in some degree characteristic of almost every rider of experience.

According to observation, there is such a thing as the bicycle face. It is full of intelligence and always displays a wideawake countenance.

Milwaukee with characteristic energy, has already commenced work preparatory to the National Meet of the League of American Wheelmen. July 10-15 are the dates decided upon.

A bill has been presented in Congress asking for the appropriation of five million dollars for the improvement of public highways.

Rim-brakes for bicycles were invented in 1872.

The L. A. W. as an organization, has a world of work to do along the lines of securing better highways, cycle paths and wheelmen's rights. During the score of years since it was organized it has done much, yet its work is only fairly begun.

The League band, or button, or pin, should be a bond of good fellowship. It is this friendly tie that must measure the strength of the organization.

There is no vehicle so useful and no means of exercise so enjoyable, so beneficial to the health, so easily within the reach of all, so convenient in so many ways, as the BICYCLE.

A double tube tire can *always* be repaired permanently, because the patch is applied directly to the air tube where you can see that the repair is properly made. It requires but a moment and no exertion, to remove a portion of the outer case and expose the inner tube for repair.

AGENTS GOOD PAY, Largest Line. Best Sellers. Finest Goods. All Prices, 5c to $1. 27 Cooking Flavors, 24 Perfumes, 6 Colognes, Creams, Powders, Inhalers, Remedies, Household, Toilet Goods. Select any. Big Profit and Premiums beside. Express allowed. CREDIT GIVEN. AGENTS TERMS FREE. Herbene Laboratories, Box 54, Station L, New York.

$13.75 SEND NO MONEY If you live within 800 miles of Chicago, if further, send $1.00; cut this ad. out and send to us, state whether you wish GENTS' or LADIES' BICYCLE, also color and gear wanted, and we will send you this HIGH GRADE 1900 MODEL ACME JEWEL BICYCLE by express C. O. D., subject to examination. You can examine it at your express office, and if found perfectly satisfactory, exactly as represented, THE MOST WONDERFUL VALUE you ever saw or heard of, equal to bicycles that retail as high as $40.00, if you think you can sell it at $10.00 profit any day, pay the express agent and express charges, OUR SPECIAL PRICE, $13.75, or less $1.00 if sent with order. While our Special Bicycle Catalogue, mailed free for the asking, shows all bicycles below all other houses, stripped bicycles at $5.00, $6.00, $7.50, $8.00 and $9.00, the new 1900 Cincinnattus complete at $11.75, yet OUR ACME JEWEL at $13.75 is by far the greatest bargain ever offered at the price. It is covered by a BINDING GUARANTEE, strictly high grade, latest of everything. Famous Belden Hanger, fine equipment. Guaranteed Pneumatic Tires, high grade Saddle, Pedals, Handle Bar, Tools and Toolbag. Enameled black, green or maroon. IF YOU WANT ANY OTHER BICYCLE advertised in this paper or in any catalogue, write us, and we will save you at least $2.00 to $10.00 on it. You can make $500.00 this year selling this bicycle at $25.00. Address, SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO. (INC.), CHICAGO.



A Porto Rican Fourth of July.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



FOURTH of July in Porto Rico. How odd it sounds to American ears! And odder still it must have seemed to the natives of the little town of Guayama in that island—that is, if they lavished any thought upon the matter—to realize that they were, for the first time in their lives, taking part in a United States National holiday.

They did not, it is true, make night hideous with their noise and hulla-ba-loo, as is the custom at home. Their learning proceeds but slowly, and they are not yet educated up to that point. But they rallied promptly in the plaza at 5 A. M., when summoned there by the discharge of several packs of giant fire crackers, sent off for their benefit by the American postmaster of the town, and it was funny to a Yankee to see how utterly ignorant they were of the dangerous properties of these same crackers. The boys made several attempts, when one failed to explode at once, to pick it up and secrete it in their clothing, and it was only when one of them was nearly blown out of this life by a tardy cracker that they learned their lesson and desisted. Ten minutes later the whole town was awake and poured into the streets *en masse*, and *en masse* they remained there, regardless of meals,

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 13.)

MUSIC GIVEN AWAY.

One hundred and twenty-five Favorite Song Jewels. A large book of music containing words and score of the latest popular songs sung in the theaters and churches everywhere. Comic, Sentimental, Pathetic and Religious. This great collection would cost from $15 to $20 in the usual sheet music form. The best collection for home and concert use ever published. We will give the book as a FREE present to any person sending us six cents in stamps for a trial three months' subscription to our sparkling, monthly paper which we are introducing into 100,000 new homes this season.

SUNSHINE, Augusta, Maine.

I WAS DEAF AND FRANTIC WITH HEAD NOISES I tried every known treatment and device without help. Finally I cured myself by Galvanic Electricity. If you are deaf, or growing deaf, or have head-noises, don't waste time and money as I did. Write me and I will gladly send you full information free. Address with stamp. W. J. TINDALL, over Postoffice, COHOES, N. Y.

TAKE ORDERS FOR GROCERIES and get a 112-Piece Dinner Set, Furniture, Couch, Skirt, Tea Set, Sewing Machine, etc., Free; also cash commission given. NO MONEY REQUIRED. WE PAY FREIGHT. American Supply Co., Dept. 57, Locust Street, St. Louis, Mo.

$3.50 A $25.00 Watch in appearance. The handsomest genuine gold plated watch on the market. Double hunting case, SOLID GOLD PATTERN of engraving. Elegantly finished jeweled movement, stem wind and set and absolutely guaranteed for 20 YEARS Cut this out and send it to us with your name and address and we will send the watch to you by express for examination, you examine it at the express office and if as represented pay express agent our special introductory price $3.50 and it is yours. Only one watch to each customer at this price. Mention in your letter whether you want GENT'S OR LADY'S SIZE and order to-day as we will send out samples at this reduced price for 60 days only. R. E. CHALMERS & CO. 352-356 Dearborn St. Chicago. Please mention COMFORT when you write.



THE HAIR TELLS ALL If Sick send a lock of your hair, name, age, sex and 4 cts. in stamps and I will diagnose your case FREE and tell you what will cure your ailments. Address Dr. J. C. Batdorf, Dept. 15, Grand Rapids, Mich.

LADIES TO DO PLAIN SEWING AT HOME; $1.50 a day; four months work guaranteed; send stamped addressed envelope for particulars. R. W. HUTTON & Co., Dept. 4, Philadelphia, Pa.



FREE! FOR EVERYBODY, The Champion Fisherman's Outfit.

To everyone who likes to fish, either for sport, for the family, or for the market, we will send this Fisherman a Outfit Free, postage paid, if he will get up a club of three subscribers for COMFORT at 25 cents each per year in advance.

Here it is, complete, nicely packed in a box.

No. 1. One Good Size Fine Polished Brass Reel. Will wind any line in first-class style. Works perfectly.

No. 2. One Linen Trout Line. Guaranteed to safely land the heaviest trout or fish of equal size.

No. 3. One Linen Bass or Salmon Line. Large, for big gamey fish, like salmon or black bass. This line will land the biggest fish caught with bait and sinker, or trolling from boat.

No. 4. One Long Cotton Line. Good for everyday fishing, after perch, catfish, sunfish, rock bass, etc.

No. 5. One Strong Line. Complete, with hook, bob and sinker. This is a whole outfit in itself, comprising a long stout line with medium-sized hook, a tached, and neat movable bob and sinker. With bait at hand and this line in his pocket the fisherman can start right in and try his luck.

No. 6. One Dozen Best Steel Ringed Fish Hooks (assorted sizes). These are best grades of hooks warranted, strong, sharp in points and barbs, and handy to use, anybody being able to tie their line into the ring of the hook.

No. 7. Two Imported Trout Flies. They will draw trout from deep pools when other flies fail. They are natural, brilliant in colors, strongly fastened around the hooks.

No. 8. One Imported Bass Fly. For black bass fishing, and the equal of the trout fly in excellence of material.

No. 9. One Improved Salmon Fly. Of the best pattern, and perfect shape and color, sure to rise and catch the fish.

No. 10. Two Snell Hooks and Gut. These hooks are set on long guts, and where fish cut the lines one of these snell hooks can be safely used, the gut cannot be severed, and lands the fish every time.

These artificial flies and snells alone are worth the amount asked for the entire outfit.

Given as a premium for three yearly subscriptions to COMFORT at the special trial price of 25 cents each, or sent postpaid for 50 cents cash. Don't buy fishing tackle in the stores and pay fifty or seventy-five cents every day or two.

Address PUB. COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

$1000 IN GOLD FREE

FOR BRAINY PEOPLE

14	5	23	25	15	18	11				
23	1	19	8	9	14	7	20	15	14	
3	8	9	3	1	7	15				

FOR BRAINY PEOPLE

Each one of the above three lines of figures spells the name of a great city in the United States. This is a brand new puzzle and can be solved with a little study, as follows: There are twenty-six letters in the alphabet, and we have used figures in spelling the cities instead of letters. Letter A is number 1, B number 2, C number 3, etc., throughout the entire alphabet. IF YOU CAN SPELL OUT THESE THREE CITIES YOU MAY SHARE IN THE DISTRIBUTION OF $1,000 WHICH WE ARE GIVING AWAY for doing a little work for us. This you can do in less than one hour of your time. This and other most liberal offers are made to introduce one of the very best New York magazines into every home in the United States and Canada. WE DO NOT WANT ONE CENT OF YOUR MONEY. When you have made out the names of these three cities, write them plainly on a postal card and send it to us, and you will hear from us promptly BY RETURN MAIL. It may take an entire evening to solve the three names, but STICK TO IT AND TRY TO GET YOUR SHARE OF THE $1,000. A copy of this high-class ONE DOLLAR MAGAZINE WILL BE SENT FREE to everyone answering this advertisement. Do not delay. Send your answer in immediately. Address ROBINSON PUBLISHING CO., 24 North William Street, New York City.

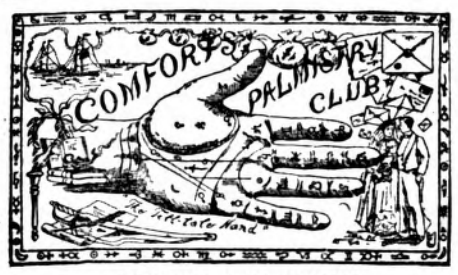
$5.22 UTILITY SET FREE.



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YOU sell only 7 Oxien Electric Plasters which we send free on sale. They will prove that there is a sure cure for long standing Malaria and Rheumatic diseases, lame back, coughs, colds and all kindred complaints as well as a preventive. This marvelous Utility Set is needed in every family. Any one of the articles is worth all the whole lot costs you in time of trouble. You do not have to pay out any money to get the Complete Combination of 15 Handy Tools. There are nine separate articles but with the different uses the combination tool can be put to it really makes 15 tools and household articles. They consist of one Genuine Swedish Razor Steel Bread, Slicing, Butcher, Cook and Carving Knife, over a foot long, warranted, retail, $1.00; one English Steel Ladies' Blue Enameled Handle Pocket Knife with Gilt Etching and Two Blades, retail, 50c.; one Pair Hold Fast Pruning Shears which will cut and hold the flower or bunch of grapes so it can be dropped into the basket; for trimming trees, shrubs, vines, etc., retail, $1.37; one Combination Tool consisting of a Corkscrew, Can Opener, Ice Chisel, Nut Cracker, Flat Nose Plyer Wrench, Glass Cutter and Pincher; worth its weight in gold, retail, 50c.; one Pair 6 inch Nickle Plated Patent Brass Bolt Shears, fully warranted, retail, 75c.; one Magnetic Tack Hammer for picking up tacks, nails and small articles, retail, 35c.; one Genuine Swedish Kitchen Knife, warranted to hold an edge as well as a razor, retail, 25c.; one Gimlet, guaranteed to bore the hardest wood, retail, 25c; one Samson Nutmeg Grater, having a receptacle in the end to hold the nutmeg, to keep it from losing its strength, retail, 25c. Aggregating more than a Grand $5.00 Combination, some part if not all of which will certainly be found valuable nearly every hour in the day, and certainly every day in the year to nearly every man, woman and child. The Pruning Shears are invaluable for cutting strawberries and other fruits as they hold the berry, bunch of grapes, etc., after cutting, as illustrated in above cut. The Nut Cracker and Combination Tool is a wonderful invention also. We can only supply fifty thousand of these outfits and we expect the demand will reach a hundred thousand—so advise your entering your order now for a free set if you want one—and everybody does, for the orders are simply pouring in in a deluge, express style.

To Get This Set Free. All you have to do is to send to us at once for seven Oxien Electric Plasters. We send them, all charges paid, and instruct you how to sell them quickly at 25c. each. After you have sold the seven plasters you send the money, $1.75, to us and we will immediately ship you, all charges paid, this Combination Housewife Utility Set carefully boxed and safe delivery guaranteed. Send at once; some sell seven plasters in seven minutes. Address THE GIANT PLASTER CO., Box 1328, Augusta, Maine.



CONDUCTED BY DIGITUS.

CONDITIONS.

To have one's hands read in this department, by Digitus, one of the finest living palmists, it is necessary to observe the following conditions:

Impressions of both hands must be sent, fully postpaid and having the name, address and nom de plume of the sender enclosed in the package also.

The package must in every instance be accompanied by the names and addresses of eight new subscribers at twenty-five cents each, the whole amount, $2.00 being remitted, with the package, addressed to COMFORT PALMISTRY CLUB, Augusta, Maine.

No notice will be taken of impressions and requests for readings unless the sender has fully complied with the above conditions.

To take impressions, first hold two large pieces of blank paper over a candle or similar flame, until they are heavily coated with the smoke. Then lay these pieces down, smoke side uppermost on a pad of cotton. Now place the two hands, palms downward, one on each sheet of paper, pressing firmly and steadily down, but taking care not to move the hand. Keep them so for one minute and lift carefully, so as not to disturb the impression. Have ready some fixatif, which can be bought at a drug store or an art store or made with gum arabic and water in an atomizer. Spray this over the impressions before they are moved and allow them to dry. Then they are ready to send.

Smoked paper impressions are the best. But if it is desired to send a plaster cast, take plaster of Paris and dissolve in water to the consistency of thick cream. Pour this into a large shallow dish and when it is hardening place the hand, well-greased, palm downward, in the plaster, pressing downward. Several minutes will be required to get this impression and great care must be taken in removing the hand, not to break the plaster. Casts are exceedingly difficult to send without breaking and should be very carefully packed in a box with the name of the sender written on it. Putty is sometimes successfully used in place of plaster. A good photograph if sufficiently well taken to bring out all the lines, can also be read, although in all cases the smoked paper is the best, if properly treated with fixatif.

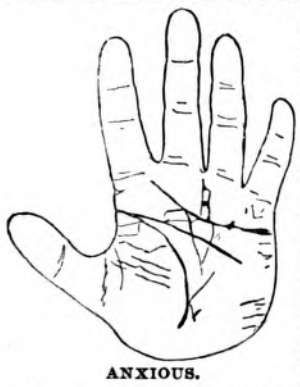
Bear in Mind that all the above conditions must be observed.

Also, that letters not complying with them will go into the waste-basket. Readings cannot appear for several months after impressions are sent.

SEVERAL members of this club have written in asking how to read hands. In the first place it is necessary to have a good book on the subject and to study it thoroughly. COMFORT'S Palmistry Guide is the best elementary book on the subject ever printed. When the student gets beyond this, Cheiro's Book of the Hand, which may be bought at Brentano's, Union Square, New York, or Heron Allen's Manual of Chirosophy, which may be had by sending to the same place, are probably the best, although there are several books which claim to be more or less exhaustive on the subject. Then when you have studied these books and have experimented on your friends' hands and verified what you have found in the books by them, you can begin to read the hands of strangers.

You should not read a hand that has just been pulled out of a tight glove and you should have a good light to read by, if possible a reading glass which is a magnifying glass as it will bring out the minor lines in the hands. The hand should not be too hot nor too cold and should be held in an oblique position so as to throw the best light upon it. The fingers should not be brought back, but should rather be brought up a little. The morning is the best time to read the hands. Always take the hand you are to read and hold it firmly in your own, then examine it carefully and silently until all its indications are quite clear in your own mind. This will take a little longer, but it is far the better way.

Examine first, the line of life; see what effects health and the great events of life have upon the condition of the subject; next look at the phalanx of will which is on the thumb and see how far it is controlled by logic or reason. Examine the thumb thoroughly, remembering that if it is large, the subject will be sensible, intelligent and careful in regard to affairs of the heart. Note the tips of the fingers, whether they are smooth, and whether the joints are developed evenly. Notice whether the fingers are long or short. These things will come to you after examining a number of hands so that you will readily note the difference. You will see whether the hands are soft or hard and you will notice what mount or mounts govern the subject and how these are governed by primary or secondary lines. Take next the line of fortune and notice whether it is broken or crossed by other lines. If so, search on the mounts for signs to show the cause and indications of these breaks. Examine carefully the lines of head and heart and all secondary lines with whatever signs may modify them. Be careful to notice whether a sign means a record of a past event or a prediction of a future one. If it is clear and well colored it is close at hand; if it is just visible beneath the skin, it is of a future event. It takes some practice to determine between these past and future lines, but only care and study can bring them out clearly.



ANXIOUS.

Look carefully at the worry lines, stars, crosses or any other signs and search the mounts and principal lines for their explanation. If the Mount of Jupiter is good it will often counteract the evil indications of a sign and if the Mount of Mars is well developed, there may be any amount of resignation which will give calmness and happiness even with bad conditions. After you have examined all these points notice what signs are contradicted and counteracted by these and then draw your conclusions, then tell the exact truth as to what you see, do not try to please people and withhold anything from them. Tell them the truth and in that way you will gain a reputation for yourself.

"Anxious" sends an impression which has not been very carefully attended to with fixative, but I think I can read it. She has a good hand indicating a pleasant, equitable disposition, fond of bright, pretty things, music, poetry and dress. She will make a good wife, as she has domestic qualities strongly developed. She is high and noble in her ambitions and her life will be successful in the main. She will have one cross to bear early in life and there will be some other circumstances about the time she is twenty which will not be pleasant, but in the main her life is free from trouble. She will not probably live to be much over fifty, though part of the impression is somewhat blotted and I may be wrong. She will marry not far from the age of twenty-five and happily. This marriage will last for fifteen years or so and she will marry again some ten or more years after that a man of some wealth and position. Her health will be good during the greater part of her life, although I think the latter part will be broken up somewhat by physical troubles. I think her first husband will be a dark man and her second inclined to be fair, at least that is the indication I see here. She will have two children by her first marriage. If she went into business, she would be fairly successful, although she is more the kind of a woman who should be taken care of than one who should work for herself. On the whole, she has a very good hand indeed with few bad indications.

Mrs. C. Jackson sends a pencil sketch of the most peculiar hand I have ever seen, at least that is the impression I get from the pencil sketch which may not be absolutely correct, but if the hand from which this was drawn is like the impression, it is a most peculiar one and I should say a very bad hand. The subject will be inclined to melancholia and even suicide. There is danger of insanity which will end the life at about the age of fifty. The fate line disappears in the middle of the hand, showing that there will be some loss of fortune or health at that time. It does not appear again, but the upper part of the hand is broken up by many fine lines indicating troubles of many sorts. I will have the hand reproduced in order that the students of COMFORT may note its peculiarities and see the reproduction of a very peculiar and bad hand.



MRS. C. JACKSON.

Someone writes asking what is the difference between via lascivia and the girdle of Venus. The via lascivia is often confounded with line of liver, but it is quite a separate line. It betokens cunning and faithlessness, increases the ardor and warmth of the passions, and if it reaches the mount of Mercury it is an indication of good luck; stars on this line are indicative of riches after serious struggles to gain them; if a ray joins this line to line of Apollo it is a doubly sure indication of wealth. Ancient chirosophists called it a "line of lasciviousness," but this is only true if it runs across the mount of Venus.

The girdle of Venus is fortunately not universal, for, taken as a whole, though it gives energy to a good hand, in a bad or weak hand it indicates a tendency to debauchery of the worst kind. There have been many and serious discussions among modern chirosophists in regard to this sign, but the most reasonable solution ever known, and in fact, in some very few cases proved, was arrived at by Sir Edward Bulwer-Lytton who was a most earnest student of the science; he asserted that the evil characteristic of this sign should only be accepted where the hand was generally bad in expression, and there were other concomitant signs, inasmuch as the girdle encloses the *intellectual mounts* and therefore intensifies them, giving ardor and enthusiasm to their expression. The favorable influence of the line is more certain if it is clear and goes over to the mount of Mercury. Subjects with this sign in the hand are very nervous, even to hysteria, impatient and irritable according to the influence of Saturn; if mount of Saturn and finger rule, the brain power is augmented and the subject becomes very impressionable, showing great aptitude for mysticism and occultism generally, which if not restrained, would develop into a high mediumistic order. We frequently find great talent for romantic literature, and the development of an intense nature—that is, exhilarated by pleasure (as we express it)—mad with joy and completely crushed by grief.

If the ring is cut by a stray line on the mount of Apollo it denotes loss of fortune and debauchery. This is not likely to be found except in an otherwise bad hand.

Digitus

TO ACQUIRE GOOD HAIR.

Every man and woman should know how to acquire and retain a good head of hair. Many preparations for the cure of dandruff, falling hair and premature baldness are advertised but generally they have but a temporary effect. They are compounded without knowledge of the cause. These troubles all come from a parasite in the roots of the hair. The cure and removal of this pest is accomplished by Cranitonic Hair Food, which not only preserves the hair and restores it to a natural color but feeds the growth and by killing the parasitical disease renders the scalp and hair healthy. The result is a new growth of strong, lusty hair. A small cake of shampoo soap for this purpose with directions will be sent prepaid to anyone writing to Cranitonic Hair Food Co., 526 West Broadway, New York City, if you will say you saw the offer in COMFORT.

SUMMER TIME

brings warm weather and cool dresses for ladies and young women. This year low neck and short sleeves will be the fashion, also necklaces of bead and pearl. We are ready in advance to furnish our customers and subscribers with our new Exposition Necklace, more popular than the Cyrano chains were ever. We can send one, carefully packed, with a three months' subscription to COMFORT for 12c. Send soon and be in style.
Address, COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

AMERICAN $10.00 TYPEWRITER
AGENTS WANTED. 260 BROADWAY, NEW YORK.

WRITE for our Spring and Summer catalogue. American Cloak & Fur Co., Chicago, Ill.

A Porto Rican Fourth of July.

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12.)

through the entire day.

An elaborate programme had been prepared for the celebration, and posters announcing it had been scattered broadcast through the town. Queer enough it was to see a big American eagle, with his motto, "E. Pluribus Unum," heading the long announcement in the Spanish language.

At 5.30 the band paraded the town, marching through all the principal streets for the purpose of awakening the sleepers. But sleepers there were none, and if there were any laggards who still remained in bed, certain it is that they stayed there for the remainder of the day, regardless of the tumult.

As all Porto Ricans are good Catholics, a holiday would not, with them, be properly observed unless there were some religious observance; so the next thing on the programme was the celebration of Mass in the Cathedral. Then came a procession headed by thirteen young ladies of the town bearing American flags, and also carrying among them one large one closely folded. These were followed by the bands, the soldiers, and the prominent citizens. Arrived at the cathedral the procession stopped while the young girls delivered to two men in waiting at the door the folded American flag. These men quickly bore it to the roof, there flung it to the breeze from the top of a flagstaff, liberating from its fluttering folds a

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 15.)

THE LATEST POPULAR SONGS.

Cost in single copies at least 40 cents each; but we have a book of one hundred and forty-six popular songs, sentimental, pathetic and comic, with words and music complete which we will send to any friend who will send six cents to pay mailing expenses, and our illustrated catalogue of latest bargains. S. W. LANE & Co., Augusta, Maine.

CHILD LOST for 18 years. Stolen from the cradle. She was told who and where parents lived by ZEMINDAR, Great Hindu Seer, who foretells correctly all Private Affairs, Health, Business. Send stamp for particulars. Box C,245, Saratoga, N.Y.

$1,000 SALARY PER YEAR!

Ladies or Gentlemen We have shared the general prosperity of the country, and we now need one or two permanent representatives in each state to look after our interests, manage our agents, and attend to collections. This position involves no canvassing and is a bona fide weekly salaried position, with all expenses paid, to the right party. It is mainly office work conducted at your own home, with an occasional trip out among the agents. No investment required. Also three salaried vacancies in the traveling department. Enclose references and self-addressed stamped envelope to PROVIDENCE CO. 80 Caxton Bldg., CHICAGO.

OPIUM and **Liquor Habit** cured in 10 to 20 days. No pay till cured. Write DR. J. L. STEPHENS CO., Dept. C1, Lebanon, Ohio.

TRIAL Treatment FREE **DRINK HABIT cured secretly.** Write for booklet on the Drink Habit and its POSITIVE CURE. Mrs. May Hawkins, L.U. 181, Grand Rapids, Mich.

MORPHINE Free Trial Treatment for Morphine, Opium or other drug habit. Painless, permanent Home Cure. Contains great vital principle lacking in all others. Confidential. St. Paul Association, 48 Van Buren St., Chicago.

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If ruptured write to Dr. W. S. Rice, C. Main St., Adams, N. Y, and he will send free a trial of his wonderful method. Whether skeptical or not get this free method and try the remarkable invention that cures without pain, danger, operation or detention from work. Write to-day. Don't wait.



FAT How to reduce it Mrs. L. Lanier, Martin, Tenn., writes: "It reduced my weight 21 lbs. in 15 days without any unpleasant effects whatever." Purely vegetable, and harmless as water. Any one can make it at home at little expense. No starving. No sickness. We will mail a box of it and full particulars in a plain sealed package for 4 cents for postage, etc. HALL CHEMICAL CO. Dept. R, St. Louis, Mo.



A BIG BOOK OF FUN FREE!

We have just issued a new book of The Latest Fun. Right up to Date. It contains the best things of the age. The best of the Drummers' Stories, the cream of the Newspaper Humorists and the quaint Ghost Stories told at the Village Store. There was never before such an aggregation of Hilarity encompassed between the covers of one book. It is fully illustrated by some of the most side-splitting, button-bursting pictures ever printed. If you get this book we guarantee that you will be on good terms with yourself for a good long while. **"Throw Physic to the Dogs."** Get this book as a tonic and it will brace you up more effectively than a hundred dollars spent for medicine. We intended to sell this book for 25 cents a copy, but decided to give all a chance to have some fun without costing much, so we offer it postpaid for only **two two-cent stamps.** Here is a parttal list of the contents:

What She Really Did.	Natural History. (The Lion)	Under the Summer Moon.
Where a Bob-Tailed Dog Came In.	Judia Knew Herself.	Ephrum Wade's Standby in Haying
The Tragedy on Skates.	Gave Up the Job.	Best Way out of a Row.
A Birthday Gift.	Natural History. (The Elifant)	A Canine Experience, or, the Value of Advertising.
Mr. Hasbeen on Summer Drinks.	Lord She Was Thin.	Inducements to Marry.
Pleasant Dreams.	The Returned Klondiker.	His Seventh Wife.
Stabbed in the Dark.	The Church Social.	The Ballard of William Pell.
Highly Recommended.	We'd Better Stop Eating.	Old Nick's Story.
I Teach a Sunday School Class.	He Mixed Those Answers Up.	A Bad Investment.
The Punkin Holler Nine Quits.	Mother's Nervous Fit.	White Mice are His Plague
The Help-Ladies Assembly.	Her First Assignment.	Pa Shows How to Kill Chickens.
Cow-Boys.	The Fair and Cattle Show.	Mr Shivvers Tries Heroic Treatment.
Johnny's Equivocal Speech.	Our Summer Visitors.	Rubbing It In.
English as She is Wrote.	A Night of Terror.	His Whipping Letters.
Spoiling for a Trade.	Came the Hobo's Way.	Almost a Tragedy.
The Fire at Simms.	The Boy on the Farm.	The Country Going to Ruin.
The Burden of Bonaparte.	The Bear and the Reporter.	The Reason Why.
Not What He Seemed.	Revenge is Sweet.	Buyin' a Feller.
Put to the Test.	When Mother Sits Down by the Fire.	Coulda't Help It.
Eggs at Fancy Prices.	The Retired Burglar.	Microbe Professor's Theory.
Hairless and Tagless.	Mrs. Tagger's Needlework.	
The Squire's Decision.		

In order that all may make merry and that we may further extend the sale of our popular publications, we will send this great book of **TWENTIETH CENTURY FUN**, with all the pictures, a large quarto, 64 page, Twenty-Five Cent Volume for only four cents in stamps. Don't miss this chance, but send now. Address all orders **HEARTHSTONE PUB. HOUSE, 58 DUANE ST., NEW YORK.**

Sent Free to Everybody!

The COMFORT HAMMOCK.

As a Reward for a little friendly service.

BOYS AND GIRLS:

Here's a happy hint for Summer,
And verily it is a "hummer."



We have 17,200 strong, perfect, Oriental, **Hammocks,** which for the next sixty days we shall place on the **Free List,** upon the conditions specified below. This will enable every one who is willing to render us a little service, to secure one **absolutely free.** These Hammocks are over 8 feet long, every one is tested to carry 300 lb. dead weight, is supplied with strong, white metal rings at the ends.

No home, picnic, camping, or outing party is complete without one. To recline in one of these health-giving articles in some cool nook after the day's work is done, or on a Sunday afternoon, is to repose in the lap of luxury.

Now to every one who will get up a club of 4 subscribers for this paper at the special trial price, 25 cents per year each in advance, we will send one of these Hammocks FREE, we paying all express and mailing charges. By showing a copy of this great paper to your neighbors, friends and acquaintances, you can easily get up a club in one evening; for with its many improvemens and new original copyrighted departments, now needs only to be seen to be appreciated. To those who do not care to go to the trouble of getting a club we will send our paper for one year, together with one of these Hammocks (all express and mailing charges paid by us) upon receipt of 97 cts. Address, COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

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Every Housekeeper Needs One. The Old Reliable "Star Sharpening Rifle" sharpens all Table Cutlery, Scythes, Mowing Machines, Corn Cutters, Grain Cradles, Brush Hooks, Knives, etc. Shoemakers and Butchers use them. 200,000 now in use. They are practical and durable, do perfect work. The Old Reliable "Star Sharpening Rifle" cuts steel as a Diamond cuts glass, and sells fast with agents at great profits; sample sent free if you enclose 18c. for a six months' subscription to SUNSHINE. Will send one dozen by express for $1.25, easily retails for 25c. each, more than one hundred per cent. profit. **Address SUNSHINE, Augusta, Maine.**



TALKS WITH GIRLS.

CONDUCTED BY COUSIN MARION.

Here's a midsummer greeting to you, and I hope you are all feeling as nice and cool as everybody ought to be in the summer time and nobody ever is, unless she lives in the Arctic regions. However, it only makes us warmer to talk, so let us get down to answering letters.

The first is from Pansy of Owensboro, Ky., who asks too many questions at once, but I'll answer some of them. (1) Don't quote but write something of your own, however simple, in the birthday book. (2) I should think all guests at a birthday party would bring presents, but it is not obligatory. (3) Eat cake from your hand. (4) You should play for people when asked, using your own judgment as to how much you will play.

M. E. B., Elmwood, Neb.—All your questions have been answered a dozen times in this column.

Modesty, Charlottesville, Va.—Write a note to the young man releasing him from the engagement and the private interview will follow. (2) To avoid being flattered unpleasantly by a man, avoid the man.

Constant Reader, Sioux City, Ia.—You can get all copyright information with blanks by writing to Chief, Copyright Division, Congressional Library, Washington, D. C.

Happy Lucy, Trenton, O.—Marry the young man, of course, if he wants you to, but it would be better if your ages were reversed. Still four years difference isn't very much.

Topsy and Collie, Marion, Ia.—You must not meet young men by "accident" and it makes you very common to stroll with one. (2) Any druggist will tell you. (3) Moles are dangerous things to fool with. Better talk to your physician.

Miss Hope, Monroe, Utah.—Having three "beaus" and being unable to tell which one of them you are "in love with" would indicate that you ought to wait five years.

S. X. L., Galena, Mo.—You have the everlasting problem of the human heart to solve and I can't help you. Don't marry at all if you don't love the man who wants you and do love the man who does not want you. (2) Let your girl friend know what you think of the young man not good enough for her.

Pansy, Berwick, La.—For the thousandth time let me say that girls of fourteen have no business having young men company.

Wallflower, Jamestown, N. D.—It would cost as much to print a few copies as many, and you could not have it done as you wish except at great expense.

Myrtle, Duval, Fla.—Don't worry about the young man; if he wants you to know anything about himself he will write to you. Postage is cheap.

Unhappy, Richmond, Ind.—Write to the young man explaining your situation exactly, and ask him to call on you in your own home. If you ever expect to win him you will have to tell him all about yourself, and why not now? You are old enough to be a little more rational.

A Flirt, Malvern, Ark.—Really I can't answer a sixteen-year-old girl who asks a lot of questions about "beaus", confesses to be engaged to three men and spells "which" "w-h-i-t-c-h".

Violet, Westport, Pa.—Yes, it is the lady's place to dismiss her escort who stops to talk at the gate, when she thinks he has stopped long enough. She does not send him away; she goes away herself and he can stay there a week if he wants to. (2) It is somewhat unconventional, but you might go to the train to see the brother of your most intimate girl friend.

Teddy, Chicago, Ill.—Yes it is quite correct for a young man to go to church with you, meeting you casually on the way. (2) Public dances are not nice always, and though very respectable people may go to them it is best only to dance with young men you know.

Anxious, Xenia, O.—Write manuscript on letter size paper, in typewriting. Submit all the chapters of your serial at once, unless the publisher has arranged to take a chapter a week. Editors buy whatever their publications need. Acceptance of an article means buying it, but if it is much of an article it is well to know what the price is to be.

Lock Box, Ossawatomie, Kans.—It is high time to dismiss a young man when he insults you. And don't ever make friends with him again, either.

Dolly, Chicago, Ills.—Yes, you may ask a young man for a "friendship heart" to add to your collection. (2) Ask him to give you back your ring. If he is a gentleman a simple request is enough.

Blue Eyes, Siesta, Ills.—Address a letter to a young man as "Dear Friend" or "Dear Mr. Blank".

Lonely Life, Neosho, Mo.—By all means do not marry the young man who is unable to give up drinking whiskey, unless you want to ruin your whole life and bring yourself a whole train of woes.

Sunbeam, Greenport, Miss.—You are too young. Wait four or five years. (2) Decline the further acquaintance of the man who winks at you.

Katie, McNair, Miss.—Stage life, even as a singer, is hard and full of temptations, but it is not all bad by a good deal. What it would cost to train your voice would depend upon a good many things.

Pattie, Duval, Fla.—Stop the correspondence if the young man expects you to do all the writing. Do as you please about the other man.

Black Eyes, Windhurst, Kans. You have asked questions enough, dear, to fill a column with answers, and I don't know which one you most want answered.

Sunbeam, Rheinhardt, Texas.—Introduce the man to the lady always. In introducing two or three or more men it is not necessary to mention the lady's name each time. (2) I do not know whether it is etiquette or not to thank the young man who gives you an engagement ring. It seems like you ought to be thankful, though, doesn't it? (3) Thank your escort for his courtesy, but don't do it formally, or in any set words. (4) Write your acceptance or declination "in return for an invitation".

O. M., Colorado Springs, Col.—When your brother comes home, give a tea and invite all the girls to meet him. That will save wear and tear on him and please them. I have heard before of girls who liked other girls who had handsome brothers.

Maude, Esparto, Texas.—Sorry, but there is not space to publish a parlor game.

Unhappy One, Tax, Ga.—There is no way to know if a person loves you except by his telling you so, and if he does not, there is no way on earth to win his love. Don't you know that you or he or anybody cannot control the heart? You have my sincerest sympathy.

That is all, my dears, and I will say good-by and God bless you till we meet again.

COUSIN MARION.

Old-Time Calendar for July.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



On the fifteenth of July occurs the festival of Saint Swithin. This Swithin was one of the very early bishops of Winchester and seems to have been a man of more than usual humility, for he requested that he should be buried in the churchyard rather than in the cathedral, which was the usual resting place for deceased bishops. Long afterward, when he had been canonized, the monks attempted to move his body into the cathedral choir but were interrupted by a violent rain storm which continued for forty days, when they abandoned their attempt. This probably gave rise to the belief referred to in Poor Robin's Almanack for 1697:—

"In this month is St. Swithin's Day;
On which, if that it rain, they say
Full forty days after it will,
Or more or less, some rain distill.
This Swithin was a saint, I trow,
And Winchester's bishop also,
Who in this time did many a feat,
A Popish legends do repeat;
As woman having broke her eggs
By stumbling at another's legs
For which she made a woeful cry,
St. Swithin chanc'd for to come by,
Who made them all as sound or more
Than ever that they were before."

And in a later Almanack, he says:

"If it rain on St. Swithin's Day
I've heard some ancient farmers say
It will continue for forty days,
According to the country phrase.
'Tis a sad time, the lawyers now
And doctors nothing have to do
Likewise the oyster woman too."

This last line refers to the fact that oysters used to come in, in London, on St. James' Day, July twenty-fifth, and there is a popular superstition that whoever eats oysters on St. James' Day will have plenty of money for the rest of the year.

Another old rhyme says:—

"July to whom, the dog-star in her train,
St. James gives oysters and St. Swithin rain."

A GIFT OF EMBROIDERY SILK.

Embroidery silk will cost you a lot of money bought at the store. We have a great jobbing-house lot of rich silk bought at wholesale. No high retail price with a lot of middle profits; but we get actual cost price. We want to give the whole benefit to our lady readers. We have prepared a lot of assorted packages containing a liberal supply of bright, rich, new silk in a variety of tones and shades, which would cost a heap of money bought at the stores. We will send our illustrated bargain list and full assorted, large sized silk package for the ridiculously low price of ten cents; or, three packages for twenty cents. Write to-day before the rush. S. W. LANE & Co., Augusta, Maine.

MONEY given for selling our toilet soaps, or 150 premiums free. Write today for handsome illustrated Catalog. **Great Northern Soap W'ks, 224 Lake St., Oak Park, Ill.**

$25 mail course on Magnetic Healing, Hypnotism, &c. Free. Pay after learning. Empire College, St. Louis, Mo.

C. S. A. MONEY Circulars free. Address P. E. Cheney, Box 6, Mutual, Ohio.

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THAT NEVER FAILS

If you suffer from Epilepsy, Fits, Spasms, Spells, Falling Sickness, St. Vitus's Dance, &c., have children, relatives, friends or neighbors that do so, or know people that are afflicted, my New Treatment will immediately relieve and PERMANENTLY CURE them, and all you are asked to do is to send for a FREE Bottle and try it. Sent in plain package and express prepaid. It has CURED thousands where everything else failed. My 90-page Illustrated Book, "Epilepsy Explained," FREE by mail. When writing, please give name, AGE and express and postoffice address. All correspondence professionally confidential.

W. H. MAY, M. D.

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FREE Clairvoyance. If sick or ailing send now, name, age, sex, lock of hair and 2 stamps to DR. D. Hinkly, X10, Grand Rapids, Mich.

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PILES Absolutely cured. Never to return. A Boon to Sufferers. Acts like Magic. Trial box MAILED FREE. Address, Dr. E. M. Botot, Box 978, Augusta, Me.

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To any address, full information how to grow hair upon the baldest head, stop hair falling, cure weak eyebrows and eyelashes, scanty parting, scurf, dandruff, itching scalp, and restore gray and faded hair to its natural color. Enclose 2 cent stamp for sealed package. Address Lorrimer & Co., 331 N. Howard St., Baltimore, Md.

$1200.00 IN GOLD FREE.

THE CHANCE OF A LIFETIME.

ACDEEEHLMNOPSSSWYY

We will give **$1200.00 in Gold** to any *person who will arrange* the 18 letters printed above *into three names* denoting **three well-known admirals** of the **United States Navy** during the **Spanish war.** *Remember we do not want one cent of your money.* There is only one condition, which will take less than one hour of your time, which we will write you as soon as your answer is received. In making the three names, *the letters can only be used as many times as they appear above* and *no letter can be used which does not appear.* **After you have found** the *three correct names* you will have *used every letter* in the eighteen *exactly* as many times as it appears. **The money will be paid.** Should more than one person succeed in finding the three correct names, the $1200.00 will be equally divided. **We make this liberal offer** to introduce one of the very best Boston Story Magazines into every house in the United States and Canada where it is as yet unknown. **Try and Win.** It may take considerable study to get the three correct names, but stick to it. We allow your friends to help you. A copy of a celebrated Dollar Magazine will be sent you free anyway. If you make the *three names* **and send them to us at once,** *who knows* but what you will get the **gold?** Anyway, *we do not want any money from you* and a contest like this is *very interesting.* As soon as we receive your answer we will at once write you and notify you if you have won the **prize.** We hope you will, as *we shall give the $1200.00 away anyway.* Do not delay. Write at once.

RIGLEY PUBLISHING CO., 166 Oliver Street, Boston, Mass.

REMEMBER *WE DO NOT WANT ONE CENT OF YOUR MONEY.*

The Victoria Stamping Outfit.

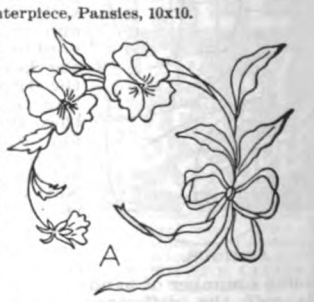
More Artistic Patterns for the Money than were ever Dreamed of.



It has been our special pleasure to select designs for this collection for our artistic friends. Illustration A shows a floral and ribbon design which can be used for almost anything the dainty worker has use for. The flowers are best executed in Kensington stitch, the ribbon may be either simple outline, outline filled in with feather, herring-bone or cat stitch, or, what is still more effective, the long and short stitch. Illustration B is a dainty little design for monograms or what-nots.

Note the sizes of the designs named below and the number of sheets of patterns in this outfit.

1 Very Handsome Centerpiece of Carnations, 17x17 inches.
1 Pretty Corner-piece of Pansies and Leaves, 6x6 inches.
1 Design of Strawberries and Leaves for Doily, 5½x6½.
1 Design Orchid and Leaves for Scarf Corner, 6½x10.
1 Clover Design for Doily.
1 Design for Baby's Bib, Rosebuds and word Baby, 4x4.
1 Design for Cheese Doily, 3½x6.
1 Design for Souvenir Case with Motto, 5½x6.
1 Design for Shoe Bag, 5x10.
1 Design for Shaving Bag with Motto, 6x6.
4 Fruit Designs for Fruit Plate Doilies, 3½x3½.
1 Design for Carving Cloth, 11½x15½.
1 Design for Tumbler Doily, 4x4.
1 Pretty Corner Design for Tea-cloth, Jewel Work, 9x9.
1 Design for Table Doily, 8x8.
1 Design for Water Bottle Doily, 6x6.
4 Designs for Butter Plate Doilies, 3½x3½.
1 Cut Work Doily Design, 5x5.
1 Very Pretty Design for Corner, Battenberg Work, 7x7.
1 Design for Border with Corner, 5x16.
1 Floral Corner Geranium, 6½x6½.
1 Design Water Lily for Doily.
1 Floral Wreath for Monogram or Handkerchief Case, 5x5.
1 Design for Tray Cloth, 7x15.
1 Design for Centerpiece, Maidenhair Ferns, 9½x9½.
1 Rosebud Doily, 7½x7½.
1 Alphabet for Towels or Table Linen, 1½ inches high.
1 Design Centerpiece, Pansies, 10x10.
1 Pansy Doily, 6½x6½.
1 Alphabet for Handkerchiefs or Fine Linen, 1 inch high.
1 Border for Flannel Work, 3½ inches wide, and 29 other designs for embroidery of every description too numerous to mention here.



The patterns are made of linen bond paper, and consist of 9 sheets of patterns, each sheet 14x22 inches in size. As good as can be made.

With each outfit we send full instructions for doing the stamping, and one piece of EUREKA COMPOUND, enabling anyone to do permanent stamping, instantly, without heat or trouble. Your money back if you want it, but no one ever does.

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HANDY AS A POCKET IN A SHIRT. HOLDS PENCIL IN POCKET, PREVENTS ITS ROLLING ON SLANTING DESK. A PERFECT PENHOLDER, EJECTS PEN AUTOMATICALLY. A Perfect Pencil Extension and Rubber Protector.

Made of Aluminum, light as a feather—looks like silver and will always wear the same—does not soil hands and will not corrode or rust.

The price of these Holders with pencil is ten cents each, but we want them introduced quickly and make the following

SPECIAL OFFER. Enclose only 6c. for a three months' subscription to Family Herald and we will send free one sample holder, a nice rubber tipped pencil and best steel pen, also full particulars how to make honest dollars.

EXTRA SPECIAL OFFER. Send 25c. for a year's subscription and we send half dozen rubber tipped lead pencils which you can sell for 30c., half dozen Pen and Pencil holders sell for 30c., half dozen best steel pens sell for 6c., total retail value of goods given you free 66c. and we also send full directions and instructions how to start and carry on a most profitable business without capital.

Our Aluminum Combined Pen and Pencil Holder is a Brand New Article, novel and useful in a good many ways. Makes money for the dealer and agents, and pleases all who buy and use it. Is a quick seller. Any one can sell it, in fact it sells itself when and wherever properly shown. Is used by LADIES as well as GENTLEMEN and is a prime favorite with TEACHERS and SCHOOL CHILDREN. Use it once and you will not be without it. Order a sample and you will surely want a dozen, which is only enough to go around in an ordinary family with a few extra for friends. By sliding it on an ordinary lead pencil it makes a perfect pen holder. When used as pen holder it is automatic, ejecting the pen by sliding either way on pencil. Makes a fine desk tool as it can be used either as a pen or pencil and will not roll even on a moderately slanting surface. Greatest tool for school desk. Does away with pencil or pen holder as we have both in one. As a Pencil Holder it has no equal. It will hold pencil perfectly in vest or inside coat pocket or any other place which is not too thick for clasp to go over. Always on your pencil. Stays wherever you place it. No matter if your pockets are full of holes; it holds your pencil securely. Anyone can sell these holders in fact they sell themselves. Send to-day, don't delay. Address FAMILY HERALD, Augusta, Maine.



CONDUCTED BY REGULUS.



THE Lunation or New Moon from which we make our deductions this month occurs at about twenty-five minutes of 9 o'clock in the morning of July 26th, Washington Time.

At that moment the middle degrees of Virgo will be rising and the 15th degree of Gemini will be on the south meridian. The conjoined luminaries are found in the 11th house in close trine and parallel with the great benefic Jupiter in the 3rd house and also having the benevolent rays of Herschel. Mars is close to the south meridian in the 10th house, where also Venus and Neptune are located. Saturn is in the 4th house.

In general the indications of the figure bear out those given by the quarterly figure and give promise of favorable conditions of health and welfare of the people. The great benefic Jupiter, so powerfully supporting the luminaries and Mercury ruler of the scheme, is promising of wholesome atmospheres and general health, though some exceptions may be noted for certain localities, generally in our more heated southern regions.

Mars in the 10th shows some discord to the ruling elements of the government and indicates some lawlessness if not lynching in the southern regions. Typhoid and malarial fevers are likely to be more severe in those sections and yellow fever will need to be more than usually guarded against. Let the best attention be given to these classes of diseases by our medical brethren for they will be obstinate to overcome if permitted to gain headway.

Mars in Gemini and opposed by Saturn from the 4th may give unusual detriment to growing crops, as extreme heat, thunder and lightning and high winds will be mischievous. Mercury and Mars with Jupiter indicate good trade and gain thereby and that the people shall much delight in knowledge and be ingenious in the arts and sciences. There are indications of a marriage in some one of the families of the high executive authorities of the government.

CELESTIAL CALENDAR FOR AUGUST, 1900.

AUGUST 1—Wednesday. Hold fast the purse-strings in the forenoon as the inclination for needless and unprofitable expenditures will be strong. Let the attention be given to literary matters, printing, publishing, and educational enterprises; do important correspondence, especially with public corporations, government officers, and in business pertaining to patents, trade-marks and copyrights. Travel, remove thy residence, and crowd all commercial engagements. These suggestions apply with peculiar force to persons born about the 30th of March, 1st of August, or 2nd of October, of past years.

2—Thursday. Affairs commenced at this time will prosper. Give preference to the forenoon for transactions of business pertaining to hardware, cutlery, firearms, metals, glassware, brass and iron work, chemicals and electrical materials and apparatus, also with persons in the ingenious and mechanical trades. The day is also strongly recommended for dealing with real estate men, plasterers, plumbers, gardeners, nurserymen, cattle graziers, dealers in agricultural implements, farmers, lumbermen, miners, building contractors and generally all persons engaged in the dirty and laborious occupations.

3—Friday. Be not rash in word or deed in the middle hours of this day nor have dealings with mechanics, dentists or surgeons; the early hours encourage the prosecution of the elegant occupations or polite arts, and dealings in artistic goods; the evening will disappoint thee in new ventures and is best employed for routine work only.

4—Saturday. Do not look for a favorable outcome from thine efforts in the middle hours in the elegant pursuits nor should the day be taken to prosecute business concerned with artistic or decorative wares, wearing apparel, or furnishings of any kind; the afternoon is by far the best part of the day and should be given the preference for important ventures where practicable.

5—Sunday. This day is unusually benevolent, particularly encouraging pulpit efforts and inviting communion with the poet, musician and artist and giving special appreciation of the beautiful in religion, nature and art.

6—Monday. Seek favor from thine employer in the morning when also make applications to officials for favor or advantage. The day is not a good one, however, for beginning any new venture of consequence.

7—Tuesday. A singularly evil day. Begin nothing of importance on this day if thou wouldst have it progress rapidly or meet with ultimate success; do not buy any lands or houses nor make any contracts for improvement of same. It is unfortunate for a birthday anniversary and good care and watchfulness of health and circumstances will be advisable for several months to come. Like caution is urged upon all persons born about the 19th of March, 20th of June, 21st of September, or 20th of December, of past years, and these latter persons will be wise to keep out of dangerous places as much as possible in these passing days of August and carefully avoid becoming overheated or being hurt by vicious animals or machinery.

8—Wednesday. Do not expect much profit or advantage from the elegant avocations or from dealings in artistic or decorative goods in the forenoon of this day, and the day otherwise is only an indifferent one.

9—Thursday. Choose this day for urging all honorable business to the utmost; for buying goods for trade and money transactions generally, preference being given in all cases to the first half of the day for the most important moves in the directions indicated; postpone correspondence in the evening.

10—Friday. Conditions are decidedly baffling on this day, and it is better to defer matters of much importance until a more promising time; make no contracts concerning houses or lands nor have any dealings with agriculturists, miners or contractors; do not expect any favor from thine employer and be sure to keep a civil tongue between the teeth, especially under any degree of excitement.

11—Saturday. Push business of all kinds, consult thy dentist, engage in surgery, experiment in chemistry, trade in cattle or metals, and travel; deal in such commodities as coal, iron, petroleum, wood, lumber, lead, wool, and grain, and with discretion in mining and railroad stocks if thy nativity likewise favor; make contracts for building and repairing; deal with machinists, engineers, miners, also persons in fiduciary capacities; have more care in the afternoon when no purchases should be made for purposes of profit.

12—Sunday. A day in which the musical portion of religious worship will be unusually happy and effective; the day conduces to unusual enjoyment of the elegant in literature and art and renders courtesies between the sexes particularly agreeable.

13—Monday. The forenoon is very unfavorable for most undertakings prompting quiet rather than exertion and urging caution in all acts, the avoidance of disputes or controversies and as much as possible all danger of accidents and hurts; let the tongue be kept well under control; the late afternoon mends the adverse conditions somewhat and mental efforts and literary productions will be more satisfactory than usual.

14—Tuesday. Do not expect much profit or advantage from the elegant avocations or from dealings in artistic or decorative goods in the forenoon of this day, and the afternoon invites losses unless extreme care is had in all kinds of speculative ventures.

15—Wednesday. Another of the very excellent days of the month which should be fully improved for urging all honorable undertakings; bargain for lands and houses; make contracts for their improvement and deal with aged persons, the agricultural classes, and mechanics; surgical operations and chemical experiments succeed; consult thy dentist; travel and trade in cattle, machinery, hardware and cutlery.

16—Thursday. Begin early and improve every moment of the forenoon in the pursuit of art, music, and in the elegant avocations generally; deal in fancy goods and engage in business pertaining to decoration, adornment, furnishings, and dramatic goods or entertainments; avoid the laborer and the mechanic in the afternoon.

17—Friday. An unprofitable day; ask no favor from persons in authority, especially in public office and avoid travel; do not purchase any stock for trade in the afternoon, and look out that thy pennies do not take wings fruitlessly.

18—Saturday. Give preference to the early morning hours for all engagements of a literary character, but have no dealings with corporations or organized bodies or any officers of government; the afternoon is the best part of the day.

19—Sunday. A fairly favorable day for success of pulpit efforts.

20—Monday. An especially active day, though caution is advised against too much haste; beware of a too ready tongue in the middle hours when disputes and mental hurts are likely; conditions are conducive to combustion and fires and explosions are likely to be more frequent and destructive at this time.

21—Tuesday. The early part of this day is the best and should be specially improved for literary and decorative work; let the artist and musician vigorously urge their several pursuits and plan their labors of the passing time; the day is indifferent in other respects.

22—Wednesday. One of the best days of the month; be up with the Sun and urge business vigorously throughout the day; buy goods to sell again, open new stores and deal with banks and monied institutions; solicit advantages from real estate men of wealth and generally from persons of prominence or distinction. REGULUS advises his friends to lose none of the golden moments of this day but to push all honorable transactions with more than ordinary assurance of success. If this be the anniversary of thy birthday, or if born about the 18th of April or 22nd of October of past years the above suggestions are particularly applicable.

23—Thursday. The inventive faculties are now unusually acute and some remarkable discovery is likely at this time; educational enterprises are favored and literary and intellectual matters are prospered; do important correspondence in the forenoon; avoid thy landlord during the middle hours of the day when more disappointing conditions prevail generally.

24—Friday. Choose the afternoon for dealing with farmers and produce men concerning farm and garden products; make arrangements for repairs and minor improvements to houses or lands, but do not execute any conveyance of title to real estate or mining stocks; employ the evening for asking favors of aged persons.

25—Saturday. Do not speculate or loan thy money or credit during the first two-thirds of this day nor make any large purchases of goods for trade; use the afternoon for forwarding thy ventures of a manufacturing or mechanical nature, when also deal in cattle, machinery, chemicals, glassware, cutlery and hardware.

26—Sunday. The mind inclines toward the elegant in literature and the imagination will be specially active; the musical portion of religious worship will be particularly successful.

27—Monday. In the early forenoon conditions frown upon the transactions pertaining to houses and lands and do not promise profit or advantage from dealings of such character; as the forenoon advances, however, let every energy be put forth in prosecution of all honorable business, especially of a commercial or financial nature; buy goods for trade; solicit accommodations from banks and other monied institutions, and deal with judges, churchmen, and other persons of prominence and station.

28—Tuesday. Keep thy tongue under restraint during the early hours of the day when dealings with manufacturers, machinists, engineers, carpenters, chemists, etc., are best postponed for a little; the day otherwise is fairly favorable for the general transactions of life.

29—Wednesday. Let all business pertaining to lands and houses, with the exception of furnishings and decorations, be pushed on this day; deal with contractors, miners, farmers and generally with aged persons; the day is more than ordinarily fortunate for the prosecution of literary and scientific pursuits, dealings with book publishers, printers, and mathematicians; sign deeds, engage servants, travel, remove and vigorously push all general business.

30—Thursday. Improve this time for making applications for favors or advantages from officers of great corporations, public officials or from thine employer.

31—Friday. The day is particularly favorable for musical or artistic professions or speculations and for the pursuit of the elegant occupations generally; dealers in fancy goods, jewelry and articles of dress and adornment should urge their business on this day with increased vigor, making very important trades and engagements and buying goods for trade; the manufacturing classes, especially of decorative wares, are also particularly favored.

A Porto Rican Fourth of July.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13.)

thousand tiny reproductions of itself which had been there concealed. These floated to the ground whence they were picked up and appropriated by the delighted crowd. Those who failed to procure one of these little flags were supplied from a stand on the steps of the town hall, and for the remainder of day the Stars and Stripes were everywhere to be seen.

From ten to eleven speeches were the order of the day, delivered from the balcony of the soldiers' quarters. Among other notable features of this part of the entertainment was the reading of the Declaration of Independence in Spanish by a Spanish gentleman.

Next the boys were made happy by the distribution among them of five hundred bunches of fire crackers, accompanied, it is true, by instructions and cautions as to their use; and at two o'clock the games began. It is useless to try to describe those games; every American citizen knows of the tub race, the sack race, the potato race, the three-legged race, the greased pig, the high jumping, etc. These were followed by native games, but truth compels me to state that they were not entered into with any enthusiasm, as the American games had won the public favor.

At 4 P. M., came the children's ball, and at 7.30 was the grand parade of the day with torches. The fireworks followed this, and the day ended with a grand ball which carried the festivities far over into the wee sma' hours of next day.

Thus ended the first Fourth of July for these new citizens of the United States, and it is safe to say, judging from the wild enthusiasm of the people, that it will not be the last.

FEW people outside sporting circles have any idea of money which goes to prize fighters. The receipts at the recent Coney Island battle between Jeffries and Sharkey were $66,848. Two-thirds of this went to the fighters, Jeffries, as winner, getting seventy-five per cent., or $33,423, and Sharkey $11,141. Both fighters have also a one-third interest in the pictures of the fight, and it is figured that at least $500,000 will be derived from this source, giving Jeffries and Sharkey at least $150,000 in addition to the purse.

SOMETHING over 911,000,000 railway tickets were issued last year in Great Britain, exclusive of season tickets and workingmen's weekly tickets. Up to within a few years most of the railway tickets came from private factories in London and Manchester, but recently the larger railways have set up establishments of their own for printing their tickets, pasteboard is specially made for this purpose and it is cut up into blank tickets, each one to be printed afterwards. It would seem as though it would be far less work to print them on large sheets and afterward have them separated by machinery.

MAKING pearl buttons out of milk is an industry of a creamery in New York State. All of the product of this creamery is used for buttons, and the owners are able to give the farmers a good price for their milk. In preparing the button material the milk is placed in a large vat and mixed with rennet. It is kept at a temperature of one hundred degrees until it is of the proper consistency. Then a fine white powder is added and the whole thoroughly cooked for an hour. After this the whey is separated from the curds and the solid parts are packed in barrels and shipped to a button factory to be moulded into the desired shape.

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PARIS EXPOSITION.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



THAT every reader of COMFORT would like to go to the great Exposition at Paris goes without saying; but so many cannot that we think it a pleasure to give just a few ideas of the magnificent fair that is now open at the French capital and to which so many of our American friends are already wending their way; a number which will be greatly increased the present month, which will probably see the largest number of our countrymen in Europe that has ever been there.

We all know that the first really large world's fair was held in the Crystal Palace in London way back in the early fifties. At that time Queen Victoria and Albert, the Prince Consort, were instrumental in making this first great exposition a fair in which the whole world was interested. While there were many large exhibitions after that, and many that had the ambition to call themselves World's fairs, it was not until 1867 that an exhibition worthy of the name was held. In that year Napoleon III. gave to the world the famous Paris Exposition, which outstripped any attempt that had been held up to that time. Nine years later, in 1876, the United States entered the arena and with the Centennial Exposition at Philadelphia surpassed even the magnificence of the French Exposition.

Not to speak of the minor fairs which have attained more or less celebrity in different parts of the world, the next great occasion was the World's Fair at Chicago in 1893 to celebrate the discovery of America. So great was the expenditure of money, and so lavish the display, and so vast the whole conception that no



UNITED STATES PAVILION.

such display will ever be again attempted; and that, in its line, it will forever be peerless in its magnificence.

The present exposition is the work of the French people and is superb. Unfortunately the many political questions that have arisen among nations during the past two years have somewhat interfered with the entire success of the scheme; but that it is notable as a wonder among such exhibitions cannot be doubted. Not only is Paris of itself a city worth seeing, but it seems especially designed for successfully handling large fairs of this sort. At one and the same time enthusiastic and eminently artistic, the French people with a pride akin to vanity have a fair which they present to the world as a climax of the combination of art and utility.

It would be difficult to give any full idea of the architecture and beauty of the many buildings which crowd the space on both sides the river Seine. A new bridge named after Alexander III. in compliment to the Russian Government, connects the two sections. It can only be said that as a whole the exhibition is much like its predecessors, the most notable fact being that the United States ranks next to France itself in the extent and importance of its exhibition, and far surpasses the other nations of Europe.

Of all the buildings in the present fair none have caused so much comment as the entrance, or as it is called the Porte Monumentale, which is surmounted by the statue *La Parisienne*, which is shown in the initial cut of this sketch. The whole view is delightful and ranks as a great piece of architecture and artistic effect. Notwithstanding that its position in the Place de la Concorde surrounds it with gigantic monuments and buildings of National repute, the work is so well conceived that it seems almost marvelous in its beauty.

A word about the statue, which has caused so much indignation. Those of our readers who visited the Chicago fair will remember the female statue, bearing on her armored bosom the words "I will" can remember it as a work intended to symbolize Chicago itself. In the present instance the same idea has been carried out; but instead of a classic female there has been given to the world a woman in stays and



THE MONUMENTAL GATE.

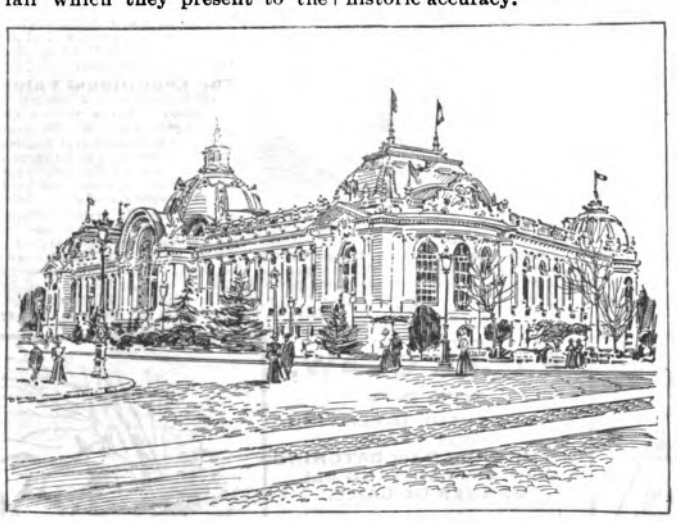
petticoats, instead of the conventional Greek attire. Place this somewhat brazen-looking young woman on a pedestal above the arch, and you have the idea of the shock which has been given to the artistic sense of the French. Notwithstanding the violence of the criticisms which have been hurled at this lady who is supposed to symbolize the hospitality of Paris to her guests from all parts of the world, the statue is in place and probably will remain there to the end of the chapter, no matter how violent the criticism.

The buildings for exhibits, the government buildings, the exhibits themselves all rank highly and are well up to our own World's Fair. The French themselves say that it is not fair to compare the two as their own artists should have the credit of designing the Chicago builings, rather than the comparatively few Americans who were called for that purpose. The sketch of the United States Pavilion gives an idea of the different government buildings, which are built in architecture generally characteristic of the countries represented. Fifty nations participate in this show and while in a sense the fair may not equal Chicago's in immensity, there is no doubt in the minds of experts that it is really a more representative exhibition of each country's real manufactures and resources than any that has ever been held. Its acreage is also larger than the Chicago Fair, but it would be impossible to make an exhibition that would so totally surpass its predecessors in novelty and wonderful effects as did that in Chicago.

There is no less than thirty-six entrances to this exhibition. The polychromatic gate near the Porte Monumentale is designed to accommodate the holiday and Sunday crowds and is a marvel of electrical effect. It is intended principally for night effects when it can light no less than 3200 incandescent lamps and over 40 arc lights.

As would be expected in France much attention has been paid to the art displays. The two palaces of art, of which we show the smaller, are intended to be permanent structures and are beautiful in their architecture and build, as will be seen at a glance. There is no Midway Plaisance, but in its place are the usual "side shows" which will interest and captivate visiting Americans, whose patronage is looked for above all other nations.

"Old Paris" has been recreated for this especial occasion and nothing can exceed its historic interest. It is like stepping back into the middle ages. Quaint steep roofed houses, narrow cobble-stoned streets lined and filled with men, women and children dressed as in the fourteenth century and living in every respect in the manner of that day, make it a combination of novelty and artistic gifts which could not be found outside France. No wonder that the national pride of that country is aflame at this vivid reproduction of middle age life, faithful in every jot and tittle in historic accuracy.



THE PETIT PALACE OF ART.

And so on the visitor will find himself in Swiss, Japanese, Chinese, and colonial villages giving accurate life pictures of the every day life of foreign nations. Indeed, this idea of living villages of foreigners was made popular at Chicago and reaches its perfection in Paris.

To close this brief sketch with a word for America let us say that America's exhibit was opened more promptly than any other and commands the most attention. So rapidly has America come to the front in two years as a great nation of the world that everything pertaining to the Great Republic commands interest and attention from every foreigner, who sees in our nation the Giant of the West aroused from his sleep. The Old World is startled by our government exhibitions of postal service, weather bureau and the military and naval arms, which heretofore have been looked upon much as we would look upon accounts of Filipino armament. We may safely conclude this article by saying that nothing has ever been such an object lesson to Europeans as the tremendous strides in progress that our country has taken; nor has anything ever been public that could have been such an intense source of national pride and glory, as has the Paris Exposition of the present year.

A GIRL'S AGE OF IDLENESS.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



THERE is a certain period in the life of the average girl—the daughter of fairly well-to-do parents—when the tendency to idleness is very strong. This period comes at the time when the girl completes her education, whether at school or college, and is thrown for a while almost wholly upon home resources and opportunities. The temptation is strong to fall back upon her status as a child in the home; to suffer herself to become a kind of privileged dependent, adding to the intimate and peculiar demands of the child a certain new and not easily definable claim as guest and Lady Beautiful. The latter feature of her status is hard to describe, but can be readily understood by any family in which the daughter has suddenly developed from a school-girl into a young lady, without any definite idea or purpose as to future employment of time and energy.

This period, then, falling usually between the eighteenth and twenty-second years, might be called the average girl's age of idleness. It is generally devoted to social activities and some mild form of mental knitting, like dabbling in art, music, or French conversation. It is also commonly admitted to be the girl's time for matrimonial manoeuvering, and a good deal of social life is considered essential to the success of this important quest.

It is evident, therefore, that the mother of the family receives, and can expect, but little domestic assistance from her daughter during this universally recognized and accepted age of idleness. The girl's residence is at home, but her life, her real interest, is not there. Her mother admits, of course, that she is in a sense a domestic burden, but feels nevertheless that she is a burden to be proud of, like the towering bear-skin cap of a drum-major. Indeed, the attitude of the whole family toward the idle girl tends to confirm her in her idleness.

Now this seems to me to be a wholly wrong and unfortunate state of affairs. I fail to see why the age of idleness is an inevitable or even necessary stage of the average girl's life. I deny that it essentially betters her in any way, or increases her chances of future happiness. On the contrary, I am quite sure that the idle girl loses somewhat in character and equipment by her idleness, that she is seldom really contented, and that her chances of matrimony are not a whit better than those of the girl who is too busy to go seeking them—if they are as good.

If I might be permitted to suggest a change of programme for the idle girl—just a tentative change, we will say, to be abandoned if it did not prove of superior advantage—I would recommend, first, an identification of life and interest, during the years preceding matrimony or entrance upon life's permanent work, with the affairs of the home. The return to the status of childhood should at least be complete. Even the child is expected to, and does, make itself useful in the home, and especially to the mother, as soon as it is old enough to be intelligently serviceable. The daughter of the house herself was practically helpful before she became a young lady, with matrimonial expectations—or dreams. Why should she cease to be helpful, and become idle, and remote in her interests and activities, after she graduates from school and becomes a young lady? Is there something derogatory to young ladyhood in sharing the burden of domestic service? Will the washing of dishes and making of beds so rob a girl's hand of its lovely qualities that no desirable young man will seek it in marriage? One would surely think so, from the prejudice of the idle girl against domestic helpfulness. Is not all this mere self-indulgent nonsense? Is it any more a help to true loveliness of character or person than it is a promoter of matrimonial opportunities?

Besides an identification of life and interest with the affairs of the home, I would recommend to the idle girl a course of progressive study and practical equipment in the line of her chosen or preferred life-work. This, of course, might necessarily take her away from home. If so, well and good. Let her seek her equipment wherever she can best obtain it. But if her ambition and her hopes lie in the direction of home life, of wifehood and motherhood, there is no better place than her own childhood's home to prepare for it. Only let her be always eager to widen her horizon, by reading, by investigation, by application of advanced methods to her own home-work, by every avenue that leads out into the newer fields. She belongs to the later generation; it is her duty to be a pioneer in her own home of the spirit and methods of the advanced age.

Let the idle girl renounce the age of idleness, in which the world seems willing to indulge her, and become the industrious girl. Whether she stays at home, or goes away to fit herself still further for some chosen employment, or enters at once upon that employment, let her give up the foolish notion that idleness graces womanhood or even ladyhood, or that truly worthy men admire the hands which others' ministering drudgery has enabled to grow soft and white. There is nothing lovelier under heaven, in man or woman, than the evidence of faithful service; and surely every young man with character enough to appreciate woman's true mission in life, will be more seriously drawn toward the girl who shows the spirit of service than toward her who spends the vigor of her youth in a kind of butterfly idleness.

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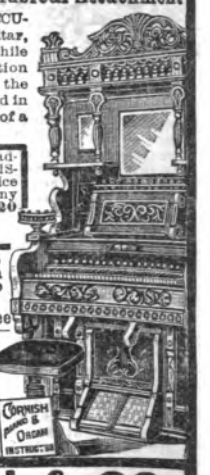
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VOLXII NO.10 MN 142

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NEW YORK AUGUSTA, MAINE. BOSTON

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Charles Edward Barns, First Prize.
Howard Marcus Strong, Second Prize.
Sargent Kayme, Third Prize.
Mabel Breverton, Fourth Prize.
F. E. Burnham, Fifth Prize.

THE MAN OF DOOM.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY CHARLES EDWARD BARNS.

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THE great practitioner delivered the death-sentence with more firmness than brutality, but he meant it; and after all, men on the verge of eternity are best informed of their nearness to the grave. He said:

"Go home, draw up your will and make your peace with God. You haven't two days to live!"

The man of doom took it very calmly, turning away with a resigned gesture, and readjusting his clothes. "I knew that it was pretty bad, doctor," he murmured humbly, "but I didn't think I was so close to death as that." Then with his waxen face uplifted appealingly, "Are you sure, doctor, quite sure?"

"You need not take my word—go ask any reputable physician what chances of life there are for a man with a broken neck. Nothing on earth can save you. The slightest jar or shock will bring about paralysis, coma and death. It may come in a minute, in an hour or in a day; but come it is bound to, and then off you go, painlessly to be sure, but certain as truth. That's all. Good morning!"

But the wan face thrust itself up again, staying the brusque expert. "Just a moment, doctor. You spoke of my going home, drawing up a will and making my peace with God. That's all right for a man who has a home, who has something to bequeathe, and who is not already reconciled to the decree of his Maker. As for me, I have no home; and aside from the paltry clothes I wear nothing to bequeathe, and I am resigned. But, doctor," he gathered closer, laying a thin hand upon the fleckless broadcloth of the practitioner's shoulder, "does my case interest you very much—you know what I mean—enough, let me say, to make my skeleton worth anything to science?" He saw the calm calculating glance beneath the shaggy brows and it encouraged him. "Because, if so, doctor, I will sit right down here now and make a will bequeathing it to you—for some slight consideration which will make my last hours easier."

The scientist resumed his seat. "Something I never did before," he mused, "but as your case is of great interest to the medical fraternity, and the museum of the college where I lecture would be enriched by such a gift, I suppose there is policy in your proposition." He began writing on the broad pad. "The consideration?" he drawled. "Well, how will fifty dollars do?"

"It is a good deal for a man who has but a day or two to live," moved the other.

"Well, your case is worth it to the college, so here is your check. Sign the document here, please. Get the money, find a comfortable spot and take things as cheerfully as you can. Be sure to send me your address. That's all. Very busy this morning. Good by!" He clasped the thin white hand as if he knew it was for the last time on earth, then hurried out, leaving the doomed man with the check to 'Bearer' fluttering in his trembling hand. After all there was solace in the thought that for the remaining two days of his life he could spend twenty-five dollars a day with reckless impunity, clear of conscience and contented of mind. Slowly, lest the jar or shock come too soon, the man with a broken neck saunters toward Fifth avenue.

Passing the Waldorf-Astoria, the wanderer was seized with a desire to taste a little of the luxury which had been all life long denied him. He moved on into the magnificent hostelry, impelled by an unseen power, seating himself before the crested stationery in the writing-room, where he wrote simply, "Dear Doctor. This is my address. You will find me here when—" he paused, then added with a perceptible shiver, "you know!" and signed his name. Then he cashed his check at the bank in the hotel, and sat down to the most lavish dinner of his life.

What luxuries! What wines! What a palace for the delight of the *gourmet* by nature, pauper in purse! With the passing of every course a new glory descended upon him—a new desire to live. Resignation to an untoward fate gave way to a keen passion to cling to the moments preciously to the last. He assumed the imperturbable calm of a general in the midst of battle, for well he knew that the slightest shock or start meant his death. And after all, was it not a worthy place to die, with a morsel of grouse on his fork and a delicious draft of the sparkling wine of sunny France upon his smiling lips? He gazed out upon the broad avenue and saw Life—Life as they live it who contemplate the world over white damask and through plate glass, Life written in great golden capitals—and he longed to live.

After the repast the dreamer sauntered into the Moorish room and set down to Arabian coffee and flat Turkish cigarettes of exquisite flavor; and through the smoke-rings, emblems of eternity and of the nothingness of worlds, he grew philosophic. Doomed as he was, he made up his mind to die gloriously, with a half-column article in the morning papers and a scientific disquisition in the medical reviews by the great specialist. Fame at a bound, glory in martyrdom to a fall off the roof during sleep! The waiter took the handsome tip, thinking it strangely inadequate to the attire of the individual. "That's so," mused the man of doom, "I must not go to my death in these miserable toggeries. I'll go and see what I can do." He knew that credit with a tailor, with head and shoulders already within the tomb was out of the question, and his funds were running low with the sweetness of a few mortal hours' extravagance. On the way toward Broadway he saw a famous physician's name on a door-plate, and recklessly passed in for an interview.

The practitioner looked at him in astonishment after examination and said, "Why, man, I cannot understand why you are not dead. It is contrary to all known laws. You are surviving by miracle. The slightest shock will kill you. You have not a day to live." The doomed man assumed a resigned air, then suggested leaving his skeleton to the doctor for a consideration—say, a hundred dollars. The eminent practitioner was only too glad to get one of the most amazing cases on record, paid over the hundred and kept the will in evidence. The man of doom then went back to the first doctor, returned the fifty and left word that he had made another will, "revoking all others." Then he spent the remaining fifty dollars in rehabilitating himself from the skin out.

The sun rose on the doomed man's last morning, finding him still at the Waldorf surviving on the best. He calculated that his end would come about four o'clock of that day, and gauged his expenditures accordingly. When four o'clock came, it found him seated at one of the cafe's window-tables loaded with shimmering silver and cut glass. Five o'clock came, then six and still no harbinger of the end, so as he was utterly broke, he went out to find another great practitioner.

He found one in the person of the president of a great medical college, and the same affair of the will was repeated, save that this great medicus was so stupefied with surprise that it was not a dead man who spoke to him that his amazement cost him two hundred dollars, for which he received a last will and testament. Honestly the doomed man returned to the former and left one hundred dollars in cash, with instructions to destroy the former will, as another making other disposition of his skeleton had been duly signed, sealed and delivered. Then he resumed the Waldorf as a fitting Golgotha, studying the *blase*, imperturbable insouciance of the swell to the manner born, to whom nothing is new and no sensation untried. If the roof had fallen in or the floor opened it would not have stirred him the slightest and even his dinner check, which has given more than one millionaire sudden heart-failure at the Waldorf, only caused a smile of saintly benignity. Three days passed, the hundred dollars was gone, and then the doomed man went forth to hunt up another eminent physician.

But the physicians had now put their heads together, and instead of ostracising the man with the broken neck, competition became keen. He had no more than made a will for four hundred dollars, revoking all others, and repaying the former two hundred, than his mail became crowded with inducements to make new wills at an advance figure, and some from cities afar. The matter got into the newspapers and the doomed man was spotted at the Waldorf as a distinctly new sensation, with a score or two ever pressing upon him "to be in at the death", some even offering to assist the demise by various surprises calculated to shock. But the man with the iron nerve simply enjoyed life day after day and week after week, living at the rate of fifty thousand dollars a year merely for the slight inconvenience of making a new last will and testament on an average of three times a week. Then he met a lanky, sombre individual with diamonds on his underclothing—a western mining millionaire who was the most miserable man on earth. The latter stared hard at the doomed man one evening in the cafe, then came forward, excusing himself by affirming that the man with the broken neck was the image of the miner's brother, who, alas, after some catechising over a cold bottle at the doomed man's expense, was discovered to be a sojourner in a Montana jail awaiting hanging, although innocent of any crime.

"If he has money," drawled the man of doom, "what's the matter of a substitute?"

"They do those things in China, I believe, but not here, unfortunately for my brother and me. I think I could pay about a million dollars to do that trick."

"I'll do it for half the sum," said the doomed man quietly. "You see, the doctors say I'm a goner anyway, so what's the difference? With half the money I'll marry some sweet, deserving little woman, leaving her comfortable for life. With the other half I'll order built a granite mausoleum so solid that all the doctors in Christendom cannot break in and get at me, inscribing over the door, 'Here lies the Eternal Mystery. Cursed be he who moves my bones!' It's all as easy as falling off a roof in sleep and breaking your neck as I did. You say that I am the counterpart of your brother now in the shadow of the gallows. With diplomacy and a little hush money the substitute can be easily made and your innocent brother saved. There now!"

"Come to my room," whispered the millionaire guardedly, leading the way.

No sooner had the pair passed the threshold of the magnificent apartment than a beautiful young girl rushed forward, crying, "Oh, Uncle George! Is it really you?" And throwing her arms about the newcomer's neck, she kissed him passionately.

"One moment, my fair young friend," interposed the man of doom. "That you mistake me for your Uncle George confirms the rumor of our likeness, but I'm not your Uncle George and one more shock like this and I am a deader. Now let's get down to business!"

In the presence of the daughter, who did the writing in the case, the whole matter was arranged, the contract for the grand mausoleum was signed and then came the article concerning the legacy. "I don't know that I have any relatives on earth of whom I think enough to leave a quarter of a million dollars. But here!" the man of doom glanced across to the gentle daughter who had given him the deepest heart-stir he had ever suffered in his life. "Even if I survive to go to the gallows, I have but ten days to live. I want to get all the joy I can out of life while it lasts. I have now for some days enjoyed everything that a man has a right to enjoy, except the love of a sweet, good woman. If your daughter, sir, will marry me and allow me to make her as happy as a doting husband may for the remainder of my life, I'll leave her the quarter of a million and an honest name."

"Oh," interposed the blushful one in great agitation, "I'm already engaged—to a young bank clerk back home. We're to be married in September."

"In no wise will my project interfere with yours, my dear young lady. On the contrary, think what a neat little sum for a wedding-trip around the world for you and your young man! Oh, it is very little to ask. I will be very good to you. I am a doomed man. I will save your father's only brother. Is it too much to ask?" he pleaded.

"Come back to-morrow," she faltered after a few moments. "I will think over it."

"Heaven bless you, my young friend!" invoked the doomed man, pressing his lips fervently to the trembling fingers. Then he went away.

The next day at high noon the pair were married, and that afternoon started on the strangest wedding trip on earth.

A month later a pale, cadaverous-looking stranger sauntered into the Waldorf cafe and sat down opposite the millionaire from Montana. "Well," he said calmly, "here I am, you see." The western miner gave a gasp and turned purple, speechless. "You observed," continued the quiet man, "they can't kill me. I was pronounced dead all right, and was so to all intents and purposes of the law. But the next day I came to and was set free on the promise of fifty thousand. cash. You see, my neck having been broken once, refused to break again and I was merely made unconscious. By the by, sir, where is my wife?"

"She is here," said the millionaire in sepulchral tones, trembling violently.

"And her uncle, your distinguished brother?"

"I sent him to Australia for a few years." He puffed at his perfecto nervously. "What do you propose to do with your mausoleum which is now building?"

"Cancel the contract, or, failing in that, remove it to Broadway and open a Cafe de la Mort on the Parisian plan. Great idea, eh?"

The millionaire drew a deep breath. "Say, you beat the Devil himself, you do," he drawled. "Do you think you will ever die? Can nothing kill you?" It was said as if the speaker now had a supreme wish for the other man's demise.

"I doubt it, unless it be unrequited love, sir, seeing that neither the medical fraternity nor the law can kill me. But here: where is my wife? I want to see my wife—" He leaned forward and gazed into the face that had assumed a deathly aspect again. "Why, what has happened?" he pursued, half rising as if he apprehended a catastrophe. "Quick! Tell me. Is she not here with you?" The millionaire had collapsed in the great arm chair. The man of doom arose, then the swish of silken skirts and the familiar odor of orris assailed him. He turned, beholding the darling of his heart standing like stone at his right, gazing upon him as on Death himself in the flesh. The man rushed forward; but, recoiling with a strange cry the bride forbade him with a look of supremest tragedy.

That moment of terrible silence was broken by the coming of a tall, fine-featured young man who stopped short, then clenched his hands and advanced to the man of doom. "Sir," he demanded, "who are you? What does this mean? What do you want of my wife?"

The man of doom grew rigid. "Your—your *what?*" he moaned, scarce audibly.

"My wife, sir! Do you understand—my wife!"

The listener turned to the scarlet statue at his right. "Dear one," he groaned, "is this true, is this true?" Then catching her faint nod, added, "Since when?"

"Since the very hour—that the doctors—pronounced—my uncle—dead!"

With that a mighty transformation took place in the shrunken attitude before them. It was like the snuffing of a candle, for the light of a life went out, the face turned a leaden hue, the head fell back with a creaking sound and the wasted form melted in a heap on the floor like a wax image in the midday sun.

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THE YELLOW RUN TIE-UP.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY HOWARD MARCUS STRONG.

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ZENOS Quintin affixed his euphonious name to the lease and became my tenant for a period of twelve months. He asserted that he was a celebrated composer, but his name and compositions were alike unknown to me.

It was the composer's intention, so he stated, to live entirely alone. He had a daughter at school, and a son out west, but neither of them had an ear for music—a fact I no longer wondered at after listening to the sounds that issued at all hours from the little cottage across the field.

To Zenos Quintin, outside of music there was but one subject of interest—carrier pigeons. I remembered this fact the moment my gun recoiled; but it was too late; the bird lay at my feet. Hastily picking it up, I strode into the house, feeling thoroughly ashamed of my wanton slaughter.

A second examination of the bird revealed something of decided interest. To one of its tail-feathers was attached a section of quill, and within the quill was a tiny scrap of paper. The writing upon the paper was in such minute characters that a glass was necessary to enlarge it to reading size.

This is what I saw:

"Ttl hhl eeo shw weR aaur
gdn iwG sae btt uei rrt
isq eou dfi aYc tek † † †."

And it was a cryptogram that bade fair to frustrate all my attempts at solution. However, after the evening meal, I sat down to the puzzle, and at bedtime the secret writing was no longer a mystery. Taking the first letters of each of the words, then the second, and lastly, the third, I made out the following:

(1) "The swag is buried at
(2) the headwaters of Ye—
(3) llow Run. Get it quick. † † †"

What a sudden unfolding of dark possibilities this was. Could the message have been intended for my neighbor? Did this explain the occupation of his son? Was the musician himself simply a fence? What was the proper thing for me to do—inform the authorities, or *do* a little investigating on my own account? I determined upon the latter course.

The following afternoon I rode to Yellow Run, two miles distant, and dismounting, climbed up to the spring which gives rise to the little stream.

Just to the left of the basin, which had been hollowed out by the water, I discovered three tiny crosses, made of bark-stripped twigs and planted in a bed of leaves. There could be no mistaking the sign. The treasure was undoubtedly buried near that spot.

At that moment the flutter of something white among the trees caught my eye. As I quickly drew back, a young woman stepped out from the deep shadow and gazed about as if awed by the solitude. Then moving directly to the spot marked by the three crosses, she fell to digging up the leaves and soft loam with a small garden trowel. After a few moments' work, she struck something that gave forth a clear, metallic sound. With an exclamation of delight, she redoubled her efforts, and soon had a small iron chest exposed to view.

"Young woman!" I cried, starting out of the underbrush; "young woman, what are you doing here?"

With a frightened scream she sprang to her feet and turned upon me a pair of widely dilated blue eyes. Professionally—M. D. '95—I thought she was going to faint, and hastened to lend her some support; but wrenching herself away, she sank against a tree, and continued to regard me with a look of absolute horror.

"Who are you?" I demanded sternly.

Slowly her lips formed two inaudible words. Then with a quavering voice she said: "I'm Dorcas Quintin."

"A daughter of Zenos Quintin?" I persisted.

She nodded her curly head and looked the picture of misery.

My suspicions were confirmed—a family of thieves.

"How long have you been at Glen Cottage?" I questioned.

"Two weeks," she answered. "I think I'd better go back now."

"This gives me great pain, my dear young woman," I said; "but it is my duty to inform the authorities of all that Providence has seen fit to make me the humble means of bringing to light. You—"

"Well, I guess you've chinned about long enough," growled a hoarse voice at my back.

I whirled about and confronted the muzzle of a pistol. At the same instant the young woman screamed for help; but I could not move my eyes from the deadly weapon.

"Now come over and tie this one up," said the man in front of me.

Instantly my wrists were seized and tied behind my back. I was then pushed against a tree, several yards of rope were wrapped around me. When the job was completed, I could move neither hand nor foot.

There was the sound of digging for a time, some hard breathing and muttered curses, then the twigs snapped, and two men passed me, bearing between them a heavy iron express-box. Instantly I recalled the daring express robbery which had occurred on the railroad, several miles away, a few months previous.

A smothered sob reached my ears, and I struggled in vain to turn my head.

"Why, Miss Quintin," I cried, "have they strung you up, too?"

There was no answer, but continued sobbing.

"For Heaven's sake, speak?" I called. "Are you injured?"

"Not—not much," came in a weak voice; "only the rope is cutting my wrist."

"This is damnable!" I fumed. "To think of their treating you in such a manner. Can you see me?"

"No, I can't see you—I don't want to see you—I hate you! I'll make father move to-morrow."

"O come now," I said; "the whole thing was such a mystery."

"Well, you needn't have taken me for a thief," came the angry retort from the other side of the spring.

"But how did you know of the treasure?" I asked.

"Of course you think we're all thieves," cried Miss Quintin, indignantly; "but a stray pigeon flew down in our yard, and I caught it. It had a note fastened to one of its feathers, and I wanted to see if it was true."

"Remarkable!" said I. "How did you make it out? I got one, two."

"A child could have read it," she answered sharply. "So it was intended for you!"

"No," I said with emphasis; "the whole thing was an unfortunate jumble."

As the shadows of night began to fall, the air grew cold, and our situation was almost unbearable. A little sob came from my fellow captive and my heart ached for her.

"Dear Miss Quintin," I ventured, "don't cry. Some one will find us. I wish that I could come to you."

"I don't want you to come near me," she said with chattering teeth. "I hate you—O how I hate you!"

She was rapidly approaching a hysterical condition, so I thought it best to subside. Suddenly I was startled by a trampling through the leaves.

"Is it a bear?" wailed Miss Quintin.

At that moment my dog jumped up against me, barking joyously. How I thought of the heroic dogs of fiction! Some had untied hard knots with their teeth, or summomed aid for their endangered masters. Alas, Waif was not of that thrilling breed. He had eaten my meat and shared my easy chair, but he didn't even offer to go home and raise the alarm.

"I think we'll die here," moaned Miss Quintin.

"Pshaw! Dorcas, be brave. You'll be laughing about it to-morrow." And I whistled to keep down the twinges of pain.

"No—I sha'n't be laughing—and don't you call me Dorcas." The voice floated over with increased energy.

That was my cue. Anything to keep her mind off her sufferings.

"Dorcas, dear," I began soothingly, "some day you will learn to appreciate me. I am young, unmarried, and my practice is——"

"Bah!" exclaimed the young lady in a tone of disgust.

The darkness was appalling. The wind surged through the dry leaves, and a feeling of utter despair settled down upon us.

"O, a light!" cried Miss Dorcas, suddenly. "I see a light coming; shout to them."

And how I shouted! Thomas said it was "fit to wake the dead." A moment later he severed our bonds, and we were free. It was sometime, however, before we could bear the pain of moving our stiffened joints.

"Go ahead with the light, Thomas," I said; and catching up the young wonan, prepared to follow; but to this mode of procedure she objected strongly.

At last we found where my horse was tied, and I lifted Miss Quintin into the saddle.

"How did you know to come here, Thomas?" I inquired on the way home.

"A bit of paper on your desk, Sir," he replied. "The housekeeper found it, with something about the headwaters of Yellow Run. She got uneasy and sent me to look for you."

"It was my translation of the message that she found," I explained to Miss Quintin; but she failed to notice the remark.

Upon our arrival home, we found the housekeeper and the old musician in earnest consultation. He had become frightened at his daughter's long absence, and had started out in search of her.

Under the influence of one of Jannet's good suppers, we soon thawed out, and before good-night was said, Miss Quintin had forgiven me and we parted the best of friends. And that was but the first of the many pleasant evenings that I spent in the society of Zenos Quintin and his very charming daughter.

The mystery of the express robbery was never cleared up. We could only suppose that the real thief had released several birds, each bearing the same message to his pals. One of these pigeons I shot; another flew down among the Quintins' birds, and the others evidently reached their proper destination.

Zenos Quintin is at present engaged upon the composition of a wedding march. Further than that I can say nothing; for Dorcas is entirely too modest to be married for publication.

Elena, and the Governor of Cebu.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY SARGENT KAYME.

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RAMON had heard the news down at the water front, where he had been helping to load hemp; and he had told Elena.

The *cachilas*, white men, the *Americanos*, had come to Manilla in a fleet of great gray ships. There had been a battle. The Spaniards had been beaten, and now the *Americanos* were to own the land.

Neither Ramon nor Elena knew where the *Americanos* lived, except that it was somewhere on the other side of the world, from which, strange to say, they did not fall off. Some one had told Ramon once, that in that far off country the water turned to ice of its own accord, and men walked on it. That was another mysterious thing; and sometimes of a summer evening, as they floated across the bay of Cebu in Ramon's banca, they said how strange it would be if the blue water of the tropic sea around them was suddenly to grow hard, so they could leave the banca there and walk to where the plumy tops of the palm trees were nodding on the shore.

It was not of this they talked, to-night, though, but of something much more wonderful still, which Ramon had heard. A man who sailed on the boat onto which Ramon had helped load the hemp had told him that in the country of the *Americanos* there were no slaves and that, if the *Americanos* were to own the islands—so people in Manila said—there would be no slaves in Cebu.

This was what meant so much to them. For Elena was a slave, although few of the free born women of Cebu—none of them, Ramon thought—were more winning to look upon than she.

Ramon was free, a native of the island of Bohol, from which he had come two years before to work in Cebu. Now that he had come to know Elena, and love her, he said he would never go back to his former home unless he could take her with him as his wife; but a laborer in Cebu, or in any of the islands for that matter, can earn oh, so little wages, even when there is work; and the price which the woman's master asked for her was high.

The bay where the banca floated that evening in the twilight was so beautiful. Who would have thought that one day could have made such a change as the next day did?

Elena crept out alone the next night and looked at the water. The bay was just as beautiful, the air as clear and the sky as blue, but to the girl who stood looking at it, everything was black. Everything would always be black after that day, she thought.

It had been a feast day in Cebu, the day when the holy image of Santo Fino de Cebu, which had fallen from Heaven hundreds of years before, so the people said, was to be carried through the streets that the people might see it and offer prayers and be blessed.

First there had come big floats, on which were richly dressed likenesses of the apostles. The floats were pushed along by coolies, hidden except for their bare feet by the draperies which had been hung about the platforms.

Then, after the apostles, came fifty little girls all dressed in white, drawing by a long white rope a little car trimmed and heaped with flowers, from out of which rose a pedestal on which the holy relic rested; a tiny image, with a sweet child's face.

Now Elena, when she had seen the flower decked car coming near to the place where she and Ramon were standing in the street, dropped on her knees, as the other women did, to pray; and because the strange news which the man in the hemp boat had told Ramon was still the chief thing in her mind, she said aloud, "Oh, blessed Heaven-child, send the *Americanos* here to make me free."

But when the procession was quite gone past a handsome *mestiza* woman who had been kneeling beside Elena, sprang to her feet and pointing to the girl still kneeling, cried to a man who stood behind her:

"The cat! She prayed to have the wicked *Americanos* come!" and struck Elena on the cheek.

Then the man who was with the woman, because Elena was only a slave, struck her also, and said an ugly word.

If Ramon had had a knife he would have killed the man, but having none he could only strike him with his fists, again and again, until the man fell in the street, and the screams of the woman brought his friends.

Ramon was seized by the guards and beaten that day in the public flogging place, and after that was thrown into the prison beneath the tribunal. If he did not die from the beating he would likely be killed, or at least would never be free again. This was why the whole world, once so beautiful, looked black to Elena.

A week passed, and a month, and then two months. Ramon was still alive. Elena knew that because a woman who worked for the wife of the prison keeper had told her so, but no word came from him to her and she could send no message to him.

Then, one day, a strange thing happened. Three great gray ships came slowly and majestically into the harbor of Cebu, and rested there.

Soon small boats were dropped from the big ships' sides, and in them men were brought to the shore, where they formed in line, and came marching up the street to the tribunal.

Elena knew then that the *Americanos* had come, and although the streets were nearly empty, now, because some of the people had hid, and shut their houses tight, she went out and stood in a place by which she knew the troops must pass.

First there came a company of brown clad men, marching steadily, and then more men dragging a queer little gun, which did not look half so terrible, she thought, as the cannon in the water front fort, which had grown rusty because they had been there a hundred years.

Then came, walking alone, a man who from his strong but kindly face, and from the dignity of his bearing, quite as much as from his uniform and the deference of the officers behind him, Elena knew must be the chief of the *Americanos*.

She had not meant to do any such thing. It was only after she had seen the general's face that the thought came to her, but then, before any one could have stopped her, she had flung herself in the street before him, and clasping her arms about his knees was crying out to him for Ramon to be freed. Herself she had no thought for then.

To a young officer who had sprung to his leader's side the general said, gently, "Take her away, and find out what is the matter. Let me know later."

That was why, not many days after that, Ramon and Elena saw each other again, in the tribunal for the first time for two long months, and heard the new governor who had come with the *Americanos* tell the interpreter to say to them, "You both are free. Go, and learn to be good citizens of the United States."

Then, to an officer who had said something to him in a low tone, the general said, "No matter. Offer her master a fair price for the woman, and tell him it is that or nothing. I may not be governor here for long, but while I am, by the Continental Congress I'll do all I can to root out slavery here."

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A WAX TRAGEDY.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY MABEL BREVERTON.

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WHEN Allan Ames went to board at No. 60 Brown Avenue, he was much annoyed to find out that the keys of some of the rooms were alike. Remembering this, however, he was not so much surprised as he would otherwise have been, on returning home late one night to find his room already occupied. An old man was sound asleep in his bed. He looked so tired, and seemed to be resting so peacefully, that Allan let his wrath at the intrusion cool down, and being a good-natured fellow, prepared to pass the night on a very comfortable sofa which stood in the room.

In the morning the stranger appeared to be sleeping soundly, without having stirred from the spot in which he lay the night before. Allan thought this was rather queer, and so he shook the old man by the shoulder. The sleeper made no response. His face was shaded, and almost buried in the pillow, but a sudden impulse made Allan bend down and examine it. It was a wax figure. And this was what he had passed the night on the sofa for! He resolved to get even with the wax figure maker who sat at the table next him, for playing him such a joke.

That morning, when he came in to breakfast, all the boarders looked up at him inquiringly. They were evidently in the plot, too, but Allan looked wholly unconscious.

"How did you sleep, Mr. Ames?" inquired the main conspirator with a look of innocence as bland as he had ever put into the face of the most inane of his own wax figures.

"Finely," replied Allan, "I spent the night at my aunt's, out of town, and I've just run up from the train to get a bite of breakfast here before going to the office."

The wax figure maker's face fell, in spite of his efforts to conceal it. Every one present looked disappointed. After breakfast, Allan hastily left the dining-room.

"Never mind, we'll work it to-night all right," said Mr. Moulton, the owner of the image, to his nearest neighbor, who had been his chief help, "but we must hurry up now to take that figure out of his bed."

The pair rushed up stairs to do so, but found the image gone, and the bed looking as smooth as if it had never been touched.

A few days later, the quiet neighborhood of Brown Avenue was startled by the news of a strange disappearance in Allan's boarding house. An old man who for many years had been a quiet occupant of No. 60 was one morning nowhere to be found. Days passed, and he did not appear. Suspicions of foul play began to be current. Accounts in the newspapers of a man in Chicago who was murdered in a lodging house by some of the other inmates, for the sake of his money, and whose body was found by the police hidden between the walls, served to make No. 60 the center of unpleasant speculation.

At last the matter reached the ears of the authorities, and they decided to make a thorough search of the premises where the old man had lived. The landlady alternated between tears and wrath as she showed the inspectors and detectives over her house. As a matter of fact, they did not believe that any untoward event had occurred there, but performed the task of searching merely to satisfy the Chief of Police who had ordered it. No. 60 had always had an excellent reputation, and was occupied by people of undoubted respectability.

They had been through all the rooms in the house except that of the wax figure maker, and stopped to look around in it before leaving. It was situated directly underneath Allan's room, and had a wide fireplace in it, with a big chimney which connected with a similar fireplace in the room above. There had evidently been no fire there for a long time, and this fact caused one of the detectives to stop short, and look again, when he saw a little pile of displaced soot upon the hearth. Stooping down, he looked up the chimney. An exclamation escaped him, as he suddenly drew back and pointed at the place. The others came and looked up, also, and last of all, the landlady. What she saw made her faint away.

After she had been carried out, the search party held a little consultation together.

"We'll have to have ropes and hooks to get the body down," said one.

"That's so," replied the leader, "two of you stay here, lock the door and remain near. Do not let any inkling of the discovery leak out, or let any one in the house suspect anything until I have reported to the chief. The rest of you go and get the necessary things to get the old man's body down from the chimney."

It was then nearly time for those of the boarders who worked in down town offices to come home to dinner. Allan returned at the usual hour, and went directly to his room. It would have been worth a good deal to the two detectives at watch in the hall below if they could have seen up through the floor, and around corners, to what he was doing.

In due time the men returned with ropes and hooks. The leader of the party made ready to go up the chimney. Putting his head into the fireplace, he looked up; then drawing back, with an expression of intense amazement he motioned to the others to look where he had. They did so, and saw nothing. The body of the old man was gone. No amount of after-search in all the nooks and crannies of the chimney gave the least clew as to its disappearance.

So chagrined were the men at the way in which they had been mysteriously outwitted by some unseen agent, that they had but one wish, and that was to conceal the whole affair. The landlady also was of course extremely anxious that people should not know her house had been searched, and a body found in it which afterwards disappeared, and so it happened that the tragedy of Mr. Moulton's chimney did not leak out. In order to keep an eye on the premises, however, two of the detectives came to board at No. 60, but no one suspected their purpose.

The whole matter would have quieted down had not the Chief of Police ordered more active efforts to clear up the mystery. The detectives began to be afraid that they would be discharged from the force unless they did something soon.

"I think we had better arrest that wax figure maker on suspicion," said one, "to be sure, there's not the slightest doubt of his being an honest man, but the body was found in his chimney, and he's the only one we can have the least excuse for suspecting,"

"That's so," replied the other, "and since it's to be done, the sooner the better. Why not to-night, when he is in his room after dinner?"

"That would do. We could take him quietly then."

The two speakers did not notice Allan. He seemed to be buried in a newspaper at the farther end of the room, but his ears were remarkably keen.

That night Mr. Moulton was seated alone in his room, when a knock came at the door. He opened it, and saw Allan. Scarcely had the two been seated and chattering together for fifteen minutes before another knock came, and this time the two detectives entered. When they announced their errand the wax figure maker was utterly overcome.

"Before you arrest this gentleman on suspicion merely," interposed Allen, "why don't you make sure that you have good grounds?"

"Good grounds, young man! What better ground would you want than we have? You know how old Mr. Grinnell disappeared from this place without leaving a trace of his whereabouts, and how, when we found his body up the chimney here, it afterwards disappeared almost under our very eyes."

"That certainly is astonishing. Do you think you would know the body if you saw it again?"

"Couldn't mistake it. I saw the man's white hair, and noted the outline of the nose and chin distinctly."

"Would you be so good as to look up the fireplace once more," said Allan, "and show me just where it was. I cannot believe you saw aright."

One of the men did so, and drew back almost paralyzed with astonishment. Stepping up to the chimney Allen reached his arm up as far as he could and pulled something down. A human body tumbled onto the hearth.

"The very same!" exclaimed one of the detectives, "hair, nose, everything, even the—" Suddenly the man stopped short. Allan picked the body up and set it in a chair.

"My lost wax figure!" almost shouted Mr. Moulton in his excitement, as he rushed at the image, "but oh, how dented and marred! Where did it come from? Why, I left it in your bed, Mr. Ames, the night you were at your aunt's. It's a joke we always play on every newcomer here."

Before the detectives had time to speak Allan opened the door of a room adjoining and in walked old Mr. Grinnell, looking well and happy.

"I've been having a delightful visit down in the country, gentlemen," said he. "I hear there's been some little anxiety about me. Too bad! My young friend here has been having me pass the time at an aunt's of his, and for some reason of his own he coaxed me to go down there without telling anybody a word about it."

"I didn't like spending the night on the sofa," said Allan, "and I couldn't help noticing the strong family likeness between your artistic wax figure here, Mr. Moulton, and our friend Mr. Grinnell. It struck me that if he should mysteriously disappear, your image might play his part pretty well, in some situations at least."

The wax figure maker only groaned. Finally he managed to say feebly:

"I thought you'd only pull it out of your bed, or go and have a little fuss with the landlady about it. That's what most of 'em do."

"No," said Allan, "I let it have my berth for the night, it looked so tired and seemed to be sleeping so soundly."

The two detectives retired without having performed the errand upon which they had come. The Chief of Police gave Allan a sharp reprimand for causing them to waste their time in watching the premises of No. 60, but as long as no harm came of it, he afterwards had a good laugh with them over the matter.

When the landlady was shown the bottom of the mystery, however, she displayed but little sense of humor—so little, in fact, that now jokes of all kinds are unpopular in her house.

THE SHADOW OF A ROMANCE.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY F. E. BURNHAM.

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THE little seamstress who plied her needle twelve hours a day and six days a week in the little room at the north end of a Broadway tenement house at the corner of Fourth Street, heard a slight sound at her window just as the night was deepening of a fall day. Peering out, she was startled to see a miniature box creeping along the gutter, pushed forward by a long stick. Within this box was a bit of paper, and on this paper was written, in an almost illegible hand:

"This has been a nice day."

The seamstress uttered a wee bit of a scream and banged the window. She was unused to masculine attentions and as the chirography was unmistakably of that gender, she conducted herself differently than many another younger and less sedate damsel. She reasoned with herself, pronouncing her neighbor, who by the way she had never seen, a most audacious personage, yet with all his presumption, a very civil individual who had in no manner insulted her.

The following day, having much work to do, she gave the note of the previous evening only a passing thought now and then, and it was not until the evening was at hand that her thoughts seriously turned to the matter; possibly not then, had not she heard much the same sound at her window that aroused her before. Looking out she saw the same box in the gutter, the long stick with a hook at the end resting beside it. Just then the wind almost carried the accompanying note into the street below, and on the impulse of the moment the seamstress did an unheard of thing—reached far out of the window and rescued the greeting, retreating in confusion to her room.

"Good evening, Miss——

I'm a well meaning soul,
Don't be afraid of me."

Life was monotonous at best with the seamstress, plying her needle hour after hour, week in and week out, and in spite of herself she was glad of the break in the usual order of events, or rather non-events, and instead of closing the window, she hastily scribbled three words on a slip of paper, depositing it in the box, which still remained outside the window.

"I am not."

The message was brief, but it evidently pleased her neighbor, for she heard him chuckling a moment later when he had withdrawn the box. When the box arrived the following evening at the usual time, her heart was touched and a suspicion of a tear might have been seen lingering on her lashes.

"I am sorry you work so hard;
it isn't right. Good night."

No one had seemed to care in the past how hard or how long she worked, and the discovery of one who sympathized lightened her heart and won her confidence. Her reply was brief, but friendly, possibly something more.

"You are good to say so——
Better to think so.
Good night."

Thus the days passed, each day the brighter for the thought that when evening came a kindly word would be sure to come from the neighbor whom she had never seen and who persisted in keeping himself in seclusion. Somehow the sewing did not seem so irksome and life seemed more worth the living.

One evening the expected message failed to appear at the usual time and the little seamstress noiselessly opened the window and looked toward the window whence came the box. Suddenly she drew back with a shiver which was unaccountable, considering what she beheld—a well-shaped man's arm, stretched out in act of pushing the box along the gutter. That was the first that she had seen of her neighbor.

The seamstress was sewing one morning when a sudden and alarming thought occurred to her. Why did she find herself thinking so frequently of her neighbor who greeted her so pleasantly each evening? Did she love him? Was she beginning to care for this individual who professed to be interested in her welfare? Like a wave the color mounted to her brow, and the answer was a decisive—yes.

Thus far had her new found friend evaded all attempts at conversing or meeting with him. Being a woman, the seamstress chafed at his moderation in declaring himself; being a woman, she did not await his pleasure. An incident which occurred of a moonlit night hastened the solving of the mystery.

The seamstress was seated in her room one evening, too weary to retire after a peculiarly busy day. The hours slowly passed, and as midnight approached the full moon shed its rays more directly upon the window. Without, the winter wind shook shutters and sash, blowing the dry snow into little drifts, though it had fallen two days previous. Suddenly the seamstress shivered, drawing her wrap more closely about her. She knew not the reason for it, but the fact remains that she did so.

As the clock struck the hour of twelve her horrified eyes beheld a hand creeping past the casement of the window, without the pane; a hand deathly white and uncanny. A forearm followed; then a head and shoulders; and finally a misshapen body; a creature unlike any human being, crouching, creeping, cringing as the window rattled.

Petrified with fright, the seamstress sat motionless, her eyes starting from their sockets. Then the apparition paused, seemed to glance in at the room, turned and slowly retreated, vanishing as silently as it had come.

The uncanny occurrence completely unstrung the seamstress and the following day she was unable to accomplish much work. She wanted to talk with some one of the apparition, but fearing ridicule, she kept the matter to herself. At twilight, however, the customary note having arrived from her neighbor, she wrote a more or less lengthy account of her experience of the previous night, asking what he thought of it all.

"Best leave such things alone."

Such was the brief reply received a few moments later. It was cold comfort and the seamstress was deeply grieved; not only grieved, but angry. Her response was a hearty banging of the window, more expressive than a ten-page protest.

The following evening the message failed to appear and the seamstress bitterly repented her hastiness; no word coming the second night, she shed not a few tears. A week passed, and still no word, all was as silent as the grave on the other side of the partition.

One morning the seamstress chanced to meet her landlord on the street, less than a block removed from the latter's residence. The suspense was growing unbearable, and she asked him who occupied the room adjacent to her own, the one on the south.

"Bless your soul, Miss," said he, dropping his voice, "nobody lives there, leastwise, nobody human; it's haunted; nobody has lived there for two years, since a young man up and killed himself one night. It——

"Why, confound it, what's the matter? What makes you so pale?"

The next instant the seamstress was a senseless heap of humanity in the landlord's strong arms, and he was bearing her homeward, and shortly he was mounting his own steps.

It was two months before the seamstress was able to leave the landlord's home where she had been near death's door from brain fever. The landlord's sister had successfully nursed her back to convalescence and the former had shown himself a close second, employing the best of physicians and purchasing the most costly delicacies.

"You have been very good to me, Mr. Poole," said the seamstress one morning when she was well on the road toward health, "I fear I can never repay you the half."

"Oh, yes, you can," said the bachelor, Mr. Poole, "never is a long time, Miss Fairchild; I am willing to wait."

The seamstress blushed, smiled and said: "A patient waiter is no loser."

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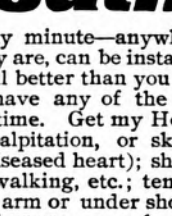
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Heart Disease

choking sensation in throat; oppressed feeling in chest; cold hands and feet; painful to lie on left side; dropsy; swelling of the feet or ankles (one of the surest signs); neuralgia around the heart; sudden deaths rarely result from other causes.

They will restore you to health and strength as they have hundreds of other men and women.

FREE To prove how absolutely I believe in them, to prove that they will do exactly what I say, I will send a box free to any name and address sent me. One trial will do more to convince you than any amount of talk. It will cost you nothing, and may save your life. Send for a trial box and enclose stamp for postage.

DR. AUSTIN ALBRO, Box 962 AUGUSTA, MAINE.



BY EVERETT G. WHEELMAN.

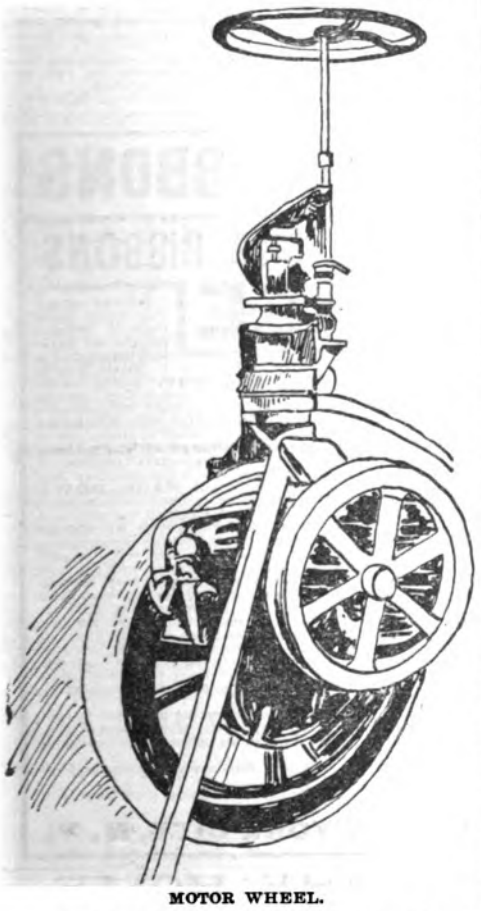
ONE of the newest vehicles is a sort of combination bicycle, tricycle and automobile, which is called a "gyroscope," an illustration of which is herewith shown.

The front wheel serves the double purpose of driver and steerer, and being subjected to greater strains than the two rear wheels, is constructed much more substantially. All levers for controlling the machine are conducted along the steering bar to within easy reach of the operator. The brake is worked by foot pressure, the tread being so set as to enable the operator to exert direct force, bringing the vehicle to a full stop in three times its length.

In the accompanying illustration, taken from the Cycle and Automobile Trade Journal, is shown a ten-horse-power "motor wheel" for heavy truck work. This device consists of a wooden wheel driven by a two-cylinder gasoline motor, suspended on one side of the wheel. The wheel is placed between the two sides of a heavy yoke or fork, on one side of them the motor is hung, the other side being devoted to the gasoline tanks. The steering is done by means of a hand wheel, shaft and gearing, and the controlling lever is conveniently placed. The application of this motor to any light or heavy vehicle is well within the ability of an average machinist, and consists simply in removing the front wheels and axle, and substituting the "motor wheel." The Company is now turning out these wheels in sizes varying from one to ten horse-power. That the automobile is already becoming a prominent factor in the economy of public transportation is evident.

The plan of a national highway from the Atlantic to the Pacific, so long the dream of cycling enthusiasts, has since the advent of the automobile, been receiving no little attention throughout the country. The Automobile Club of America has taken up the matter and at a meeting at the Waldorf-Astoria, in New York City, the trans-continental automobile road was formally launched. General Miles representing the War Department, and General Roy Stone, head of the Department of Road Inquiry, were present and expressed sympathy with the movement. Automobilists believe that the highway should be built independent of existing roads and the expense borne by the United States, aided by the states through which the road passes.

Akron, Ohio, is the proud possessor of the first automobile patrol wagon in this country. It is of electric type, being driven by two six-horse-power motors, capable of a maximum speed of twenty miles an hour. The battery is of forty cells and one charge will carry the vehicle twenty-five miles. The steering is accomplished by means of the wheel in front, a lock on the steering shaft enabling the vehicle to run straight without watching. An electric headlight and an electric alarm gong give warning of the approach of this modern accessory of the up-to-date municipal department, while a smaller light in the top of the wagon gives ample illumination for the interior. In order to prevent accidents on steep grades three systems of brakes are used. The complete vehicle weighs five thousand eight hundred pounds, and in actual service has been



MOTOR WHEEL.

run through mud six inches deep, with as many people on it as could be seated.

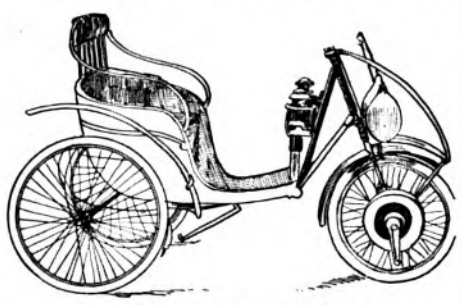
A self-propelled invalid's chair is the latest development of the electromobile. It was designed by a physician of Toronto, Canada, and carries a four-horse-power motor and sufficient battery capacity for a fifteen mile run at a rate of four and a half miles an hour.

The advent of the self-propelled vehicle has brought to the front accessories similar to those in use in connection with the bicycle, but larger, stronger and more powerful. Thus there are now on the market, tires, rims, pumps, lamps, bells, chain, bodies, enamel, and so on ad infinitum—all especially adapted for the fitting or furnishing of the automobile.

An automobile authority advises those who are contemplating buying horseless vehicles to put in a week or two managing a motor tricycle. "It is a splendid preparation for better things, and a week's actual experience on the road is infinitely better than a month's theoretical study."

As bicycles have already passed the experimental stage for military use, it appears probable that the next step will be motor-boats. These were given a trial at the last German manoeuvers and proved very successful. It is now reported that German firms are rapidly manufacturing army bicycles and motor-boats.

According to experts, the neglect of bearings is a prolific source of injury to bicycles. A loose bearing causes extra friction and extra strain. The machine runs badly and wears out much more quickly. An overtight bearing is almost as bad. A bearing should be adjusted until there is absolutely no side play. The act of securing the nuts, however, sometimes overtightens the bearings, and for this



GYROSCOPE MOTOR TRICYCLE.

reason the wheel should be spun after the nuts have been tightened. If the wheel stops at all suddenly it is a sign that the bearing is overtight, and it should be simply slackened.

In badly-shaped and ill-adjusted saddles and the desire to "scorch" lie all the hidden dangers of wheeling and a more sensible appreciation of the sport, coupled with better wheels, better saddles and the dissemination of a little practical commonsense has worked wonders with the wheelwoman, and bicycling is now fast regaining much of its former popularity. An uncomfortable saddle should never be ridden, no matter how much it is recommended by one's friends.

Despite the legion of instruction books that have been published and the number of schools for learning to ride the bicycle, one still sees a great many women making the same old mistakes. They do not sit upright on the machine with the shoulders thrown back, the chest out, and the head erect. Not only is this the most graceful position for riding, but it is also the most healthful. Common sense and vanity are united in this point. The woman who rides with her head and shoulders bent forward over the handle bars is not only hopelessly ungraceful, but deprives herself of the healthful advantages of the exercise, for cramped lungs cannot breathe properly and the heart labors in this position.

The adjustment of the saddle, says a recent writer in Harper's Bazar, is quite as important as its shape. It should not be tipped forward so as to throw the weight towards the handle bars, nor back so that it becomes necessary to hold one's weight from sliding away. It should bear the body upright so that no effort or extra pressure is necessary to keep from sliding off. In fact, it should be a seat rather than a saddle and as comfortable as possible.

Nothing can be more dangerous than riding with the saddle post too high. The correct reach can easily be tested by sitting upright on the saddle with one pedal down at its lowest point. With the leg straight the arch of the foot under the instep should rest naturally on the pedal—that is, without leaning the body over to lengthen the reach, nor bending the knee to shorten it. It is important also that the saddle be adjusted far enough forward so that one sits directly over her work; nothing is more tiring than riding a bicycle with the saddle too far back or too low. In either case the muscles bend too much and the muscles of the legs soon become exhausted. If the saddle is too far back it is necessary to lean forward in the ungraceful and unhealthy position of the "scorcher" in order to reach the handle bars.

Brakes should always be used on bicycles for women, and those which clutch the tire firmly, so as to stop the wheel in a short distance, are particularly desirable. Too much use of the brake, particularly when the wheel is going fast, wears out the front tire, but it will be found very useful in dismounting hurriedly. For the ordinary dismount the bicycle should be slowed up and the weight thrown over to the left foot when the pedal is at the bottom of its circle. As it begins to rise the weight of the dismounting rider will check the progress of the wheel and she can step quietly to the ground. It is not necessary to jump off or to fall off; if the wheel is stopped properly either with the brake or by the use of the body's weight, one can step off just as gracefully and with as little danger as she steps off a curbstone.

Not one woman in ten leads a wheel properly, and for that matter, very few men do either. Most women lean over and with considerable effort push the machine with one hand on each handle bar, but this makes them bend the body uncomfortably or they are so close that the idle pedal constantly strikes their shins as they walk alongside of the bicycle. To avoid this some of them lead a wheel by one handle bar, but it is obviously impossible to guide it properly in this way; others put the right hand on the saddle and the left on the bar.

The correct method, however, is different from all of these. The wheel should be grasped by the center of the handle bar, with the fingers turned up and divided around the head-post. This way of leading keeps the machine further away from the body, so as not to interfere with walking by it, and at the same time guides it most easily. Instantly that it swerves too close or too far, the front wheel is lifted from the ground and the idle bicycle immediately recovers its balance.

It is really surprising how many women find it difficult to mount a bicycle properly. Instead of taking it at the proper height, they insist on having the pedal too low when they put their weight upon it, and the result is that the wheel does not get enough start before they are on the saddle, the other pedal will turn past the "dead center", the wheel stops and they are forced to jump off again hurriedly.

The right pedal should be fully two-thirds of the way up to mount properly, and the whole weight should be kept on that pedal until it has dropped half way down in its course. Then the machine will start ahead quickly before one takes the saddle, and its force will be enough to carry the left pedal around past the top of its turn and the other foot's pressure on that at once gets the wheel under full headway.

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EDITOR'S NOTE.—The Slocum System is medicine reduced to an exact science by America's foremost specialist, and our readers are urged to take advantage of Dr. Slocum's generous offer. When writing the Doctor please mention Comfort.

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The four together form a panoply of **strength** against disease in whatever shape it may attack you.

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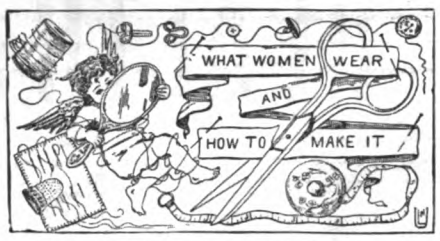
Mr. Smith, of Ind., made $927.50 first 6 months. Albert Hill, of N. J., $288 first month. Mr. Muncy, of Texas, $12.50 first 2 hours. Carrie Williams, clerk, $144 in 6 weeks. Mrs. Hitchcox, $222, besides housekeeping. Lida Kennedy, $84.00 while teaching.

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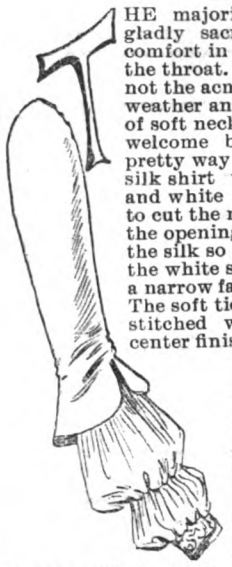


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WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.

THE majority of women would gladly sacrifice a little style to comfort in the matter of exposing the throat. A stiff linen collar is not the acme of comfort in warm weather and anything in the way of soft neckwear is apt to find a welcome by sensible women. A pretty way to finish the neck of a silk shirt waist made of scarlet and white striped China silk, is to cut the neck square, and finish the opening with a flat band of the silk so folded as to show only the white stripe. At each side is a narrow fall of Valenciennes lace. The soft tie is of plain white silk stitched with a fold down the center finished in the same way.



This model will be found ideal for organdies, lawns, ginghams, or any soft material. A narrow little piping of soft silk is used as the finish on the neck of a number of the new gowns, which are collarless. Around the throat may be worn with becoming effect several rows of pearls or coral, or a narrow band of black velvet ribbon tied in a bow at the back.

Handkerchief bodices are extremely popular. A sweet one has the yoke of tucked white surah attached to a full lower portion over which is a draped bolero effect in front. A folded girdle extends all around the waist, much higher at the front. Over the shoulders is a large shawl collarette made of the border of the handkerchief, the fringed edges forming the trimming. The upper portions of the sleeves are plain, the lower portion being formed by the flowered material.

Stunning indeed are the new Heptonette rain garments and dust cloaks, so far surpassing all that have gone before in that line that comparisons are not to be made. The material is somewhat different from the cravenette and much lighter. They are of English manufacture and not to be duplicated in this country. They are in shape very much like a man's Raglan, large and loose differing only at the back when a curved center seam, finished with a broad stitched band takes away the loose effect and renders the garment wonderfully graceful. These cloaks are very light weight and are being worn on all occasions when any sort of wrap is necessary, and will be worn during the fall and winter over the usual outer garment, as a protection from rain or dampness.



The Ladysmith has so taken the fancy of the smart girl that the usual sailor is very seldom seen and is not considered the modish hat of the season. The Ladysmith is seen in a variety of forms, made so by various arrangements of the brim. Sometimes the brim droops all around. Sometimes it droops at the front and sides, rolling at the back and often it rolls gently all around. The usual decoration consists of a folded scarf of flannel, of whatever color desired, (the preference given to brilliant blues and reds) while a binding of the same finishes the brim.



ACCORDION PLEATED LIBERTY SILK.

The separate waist is as popular as ever, but there is a slight difference in the manner of wearing them, the usual black skirt being considered somewhat passe, unless the waist is made of wash material. To be perfectly correct it is considered quite necessary to wear a skirt of the same color, or, at least some light toned color to harmonize. The wash waist is independent in its habits and combines itself most naturally with skirts of all sorts. White is the preferred color, for waists of lawn, organdie, or silk. Yokes and stiff collars are things of the past. The collarless waist is one of the newest fads, the fronts are arranged in many fanciful ways, sometimes full, cut out square and daintily trimmed with lace and ribbon; sometimes almost plain, with the fronts laid surplice-wise across each other, the edges bordered with lace, etc. With these a little chemisette is sometimes worn, but the loose open neck is usually preferred. It is an easy matter to vary these waists by their trimmings. Small tab ends extending from the edge where they close are one form; tucks, hemstitching, open work, appliques of lace and embroidery alternate bands of insertion and ribbon or silk, and various other little touches afford the means of very pleasing changes. Much of the beauty and style of a waist, and, in fact of an entire gown, depends upon the arrangement of ties and belts. The stock has been metamorphosed into a most beautiful confection; now a mass of the finest lace with dainty colors peering through the meshes; now of soft folds of panne or satin, with long ends fastened by rosettes hanging loosely down the front of the garment, or worn fastened at one side. Berthas are very much in vogue and one form is the graceful fichu. If the fichu is short, the ends are tied in a small knot on the bosom; if long, they are fastened at one side, or allowed to fall naturally their full length. The fichu is so much in favor that the effect is often sought in the same material as composes the garment itself.



Very attractive are the house jackets of china silk in all the light colors, made up in Kimona fashion with the back and side seams slightly curved, imparting an air of grace not given by the regular Kimona. Bands of lace, usually an inch wide intersect the jacket from hem to shoulder, at regular intervals, as well as the sleeves which are usually loose and open. A soft frill of lace finishes the throat and is jaboted down the front, where knots of ribbon are set to tie it together. Lace, in the heavy varieties, is applied flatly to a number of the newest dressy toilettes. Lace richly strewn with turquoise, coral, amethysts, pearls and rhinestones gives a touch of elegance to the simplest gowns, and is usually applied to the bodice in some telling way.

The collarless Eton or bolero is one of the most comfortable fashions of the season, and one which appeals to the home dressmaker at once. A modish little garment of this sort is made up in white broadcloth, with no back seams, and having the rounded fronts. The edges are finished by an inch wide band of gold braid set on as a binding, while a small gold cord finishes the low neck and wrists. A row of small, round gold buttons set off the front.

A short mess jacket of marine blue broadcloth smartened by stitchings of white and a set of brass buttons is worn with a skirt of white pique laid in side pleats.

YANKEE CITRON.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



THE GOVERNMENT is trying very hard to introduce the cultivation of the citron in California and Florida, but a difficulty has arisen, owing to the fact that the process of preparing the fruit for market is secret. Indeed, it is kept so close, being peculiarly an Italian art and known only to the few who have handed it down from father to son, generation after generation, that all efforts made to get the recipe up to now have been unsuccessful. Doubtless the Department of Agriculture would be willing to pay a handsome price for it.

The finest commercial citron comes from Corsica, and up to within the last few years all of the fruit that came to the United States was imported in a preserved state. At the present time, however, it arrives merely pickled, and is preserved afterwards. Of course, it is only the rind of the fruit that is utilized, and the pickling consists simply in saturation in brine. Two concerns in New York City and two in Chicago turn out the bulk of the citron sold in this country, employing skilled Italians to do the preserving. How the thing is done they will not tell.

The government has introduced the citron into California and Florida by distributing buds of the plant, with instructions that they be grafted upon orange or lemon stumps. They will grow well in either case, inasmuch as both orange and lemon belong to the same citrus family, but the draft upon the lemon does best. The citron plant is a low straggling bush, the branches of which take root and soon form a dense thicket. When the fruit has reached full size, it sometimes weighs as much as five pounds. Inside, it is divided up into segments or "figs" just like an orange, and the spongy rind is very thick.

The nature of the process for preserving citron is understood in a general way; it is the essential details that are lacking. The rinds are first soaked in fresh cold water to rid them of the pickling salt, after which they are boiled to make them tender and soft enough to absorb the syrup into which they are next put. They must be soaked in eight syrups of different strengths, beginning with the weakest, and this performance requires eight days, because the absorption of sugar must be very slow in order to be thorough. Next they are boiled in syrup of extra strength, and finally they are candied, to cover the peel with a layer of sugar crystals, and dried on wire netting.

An arrangement has been made with one of the manufacturing concerns in New York by which one hundred pounds of California citron peel are to be placed in its hands for preserving, with a view to ascertaining whether the American-grown article is equal to the Corsican. In order to be a success, our citron must be as good as the foreign brand, of course; otherwise, proof that it could be produced in this country on a commercial scale would be of no value.

CALENDAR SUPERSTITIONS.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



IT WAS on the fifteenth of August the feast of the Assumption fell when Bishop Hall tells us that it was customary to pray for a blessing upon herbs, plants, roots, and fruits. This custom is referred to in the following old lines:

"The blessed Virgin Marie's feast has here his place and time:
Wherein, departing from the earth, she did the heavens clime;
Great bundels then of hearbes to church the people fast doe beare,
The which against all hurtful things the priest doth hallow theare."

There was an ancient custom of giving presents of little knives on St. Bartholomew's Day, August twenty-fourth, probably in memory of the knife wherewith the saint suffered martyrdom, since it dates too far back to have its origin in the famous Massacre of Saint Bartholomew that occurred in The following weather proverb refers to this season of the year:

"All the tears that St. Swithin can cry,
St. Bartholomew's dusty mantle wipes dry."



ON the banks of the small and large streams flowing to the coasts of Maine are laborers who have an art peculiarly their own. As the logs are floated down they are hooked into a certain station where are men, under direction of one wood cutter, who with their axes cut into each log a mark which signifies to whom the log belongs.

These marks are often letters or hieroglyphics and are very quickly and skillfully done, the more essential part being the depth of the cut, so that in the rubbing and scraping the logs necessarily undergo on their way to the sea the marks will not be effaced.

FITS Permanently Cured. No fits or nervousness after first day's use of Dr. Kline's Great Nerve Restorer. Send for **FREE. $2.00** trial bottle and treatise. DR. R. H. KLINE, Ltd., 931 E Arch St., Philadelphia, Pa.

A GIFT OF EMBROIDERY SILK.

Embroidery silk will cost you a lot of money bought at the store. We have a great jobbing-house lot of rich silk bought at wholesale. No high retail price with a lot of middle profits; but we get actual cost price. We want to give the whole benefit to our lady readers. We have prepared a lot of assorted packages containing a liberal supply of bright, rich, new silk in a variety of tones and shades, which would cost a heap of money bought at the stores. We will send our illustrated bargain list and full assorted, large sized silk package for the ridiculously low price of ten cents; or, three packages for twenty cents. Write to-day before the rush. S. W. LANE & Co., Augusta, Maine.

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Female Troubles, Stooping Posture, Inflammations, Internal Pains, Tired Feeling, Backache, Weak Lungs, Nervousness.

TRIAL FREE.

It will make you comfortable, buoyant, happy—give you ability to work and enjoy life. It is simple, wholly external, adjustable to any figure. Worn with or without corset.



We have over 15,000 letters like this:

Chandler, Okla., July 27, 1899.

Your Brace did all you said about it and more for me. It has saved me a big doctor's bill and brought me good health, which I had not had before in 25 years. My troubles were dropsy, headache, lung disease, stomach and other ills to which women are subject. MRS. L. B. DICKINSON.

Write today for particulars and illustrated book mailed free in plain sealed envelope. Address
The Natural Body Brace Co., Box 27, Salina, Kansas.
Every woman should have this Brace.

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LADIES WANTED to do writing at home. **Good wages.** No canvassing. Send stamped envelope for reply. MISS MODELLE MILLER, New Carlisle, Ind.
Please mention COMFORT when you write.

MORPHINE Laudanum, Opium and kindred Drug Habits permanently cured. German discovery. Home Method. *Free Trial Treatment* on application. **Berlin Remedy Co., 2 East 42d St., New York.**

ARE YOU ASHAMED OF YOUR FACE?
LOVELY face, beautiful neck, can be had by all who send five **FREE** 2-cent stamps for postage, wrapping, etc., of a large trial size of our Great Beautifier; we will also send a package of Arabian Sachet and a booklet on beauty, all free. **Goodwill Chem. Co., Room 223, Wamsley Bldg., Balto., Md.**

LADIES I Make Big Wages —AT HOME— and will gladly tell you all about my work. It's very pleasant and will easily pay $18 weekly. This is no deception. I want no money and will gladly send full particulars to all sending 2c. stamp. MRS. A. H. WIGGINS, Box 8, Benton Harbor, Mich.

HAIR LIKE THIS



We will forward FREE
To any address, full information how to grow hair upon the baldest head, stop hair falling, cure weak eyebrows and eyelashes, scanty parting, scurf, dandruff, itching scalp, and restore gray and faded hair to its natural color. Enclose 2 cent stamp for sealed package. Address **Lorrimer & Co.**, 331 N. Howard St., Baltimore, Md.

KOIN MONEY.

It Won't Turn Silver to Gold, nor Turn Gold to Silver; but it Will Coin Dollars for You. Agents Wanted.

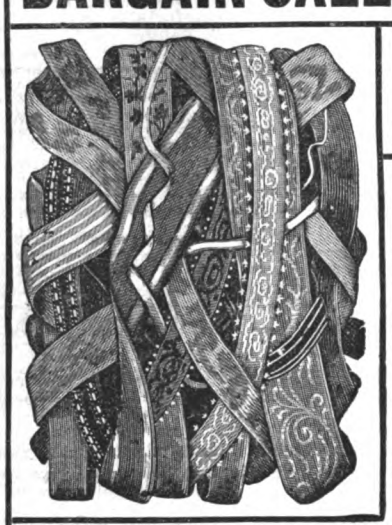
The Electro Polishing Cloth, a wonderful prepared cloth that gives electric brightness and lustre to every metal it touches. Without any powders or paste, simply by rubbing with this cloth, a brilliant lasting polish will be placed on Tableware, Gold, Silver, Nickel, Copper, Plated ware, Bicycles, Glass, etc. Bright, absolutely clean, and perfectly free from corrosive tarnish or dirt and will last. **The Greatest Revolution in the Household. Takes the place of all Polishes, Powders, Pastes, Liquids and also Chamois Skins at less than one-quarter the cost. It is especially adapted for cleaning and polishing Metal or Glass Tableware.**



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SUNSHINE, Box 551, AUGUSTA, MAINE.

BARGAIN SALE of Remnants of **SILK RIBBONS**



BEAUTIFUL SILK RIBBONS ALMOST FREE

To close out our tremendous large stock of **Remnants of Silk Ribbons,** which is the **largest** in quantity, value and variety in **New York City,** we have marked the **prices way down.** These are the most **beautiful Silk Ribbons** in the East, and at this remarkable mark-down sale we are making an unprecedented and unparalleled **BARGAIN OFFER.** These **beautiful Silk Ribbons** were recently purchased at wholesale auction sales at prices which will enable our lady customers to secure **unheard of bargains.** We are overstocked and must sell them at a **greatly reduced price** from their real value. These ribbons are really very fine ribbons. Please do not judge them by our **MARK-DOWN PRICES.** They are bought in very large quantities at wholesale auction sales, and we generally buy for **spot cash** all the ribbons a mill has. We have bought as high as **$3,000 worth of these beautiful Silk Ribbons at one time,** and they are certainly of most excellent value. We are anxious to sell a lot of these rare Silk Ribbons in every neighborhood, as their beauty and value at **OUR CUT PRICES** will sell lots of them to your lady friends.

Now, remember, these remnants are all from one to two and three yards in length, and many of them are the *finest* quality of Ribbons in the market, of *different widths*, in a variety of fashionable shades; in fact, nearly all colors are represented; also different kinds of Ribbons adapted for *bonnet strings, neckwear, trimming for hats and dresses, bows, scarfs, etc., etc.* No lady can purchase such fine Ribbons as these at any store in the land for many times our price, so that the bargains offered by us should be taken advantage of by our customers.

Our stock of Silk Ribbons, from which we put up these 35-cent packages, consists of Crown Edge, Gros Grain, Moire, Picot Edge, Satin Edge, Silk Brocade, Striped Ottoman, and various other styles of Plain and Fancy Silk Ribbons suited to the wants of our lady friends.

We put up carefully assorted packages of Silk Ribbons, assorted colors, no remnants less than one yard long, and all first-class, useful goods.

We will send **1** package for **35** cents, silver, or **36** cents in 2-cent stamps. Carefully packed in boxes, postpaid, upon receipt of price. Address

PARIS RIBBON CO., Box 3044, NEW YORK CITY, N. Y.

AN ART GIFT FOR THE HOME.

There is nothing about a home as necessary as a fine duster. This picture shows the new **All Wool Duster.** Neat and convenient and so soft and clean that the daintiest article may be dusted with it without danger of scratching or scarring. Removes all dust without effort. Every duster may be hung in parlor where they make nice ornaments. **Assorted Art Colors with highly finished wood handle** firmly secured with **Bright Aluminum Ferrule,** that never tarnishes or grows dull. Will last for years and always just the handiest thing a woman can have in the house, or a man in the store or office. Make delightful presents for your friends as a gift or souvenir. Agents will find them the best selling article in the market. Special terms for those who wish to sell. **A GREAT OFFER FOR ALL.** We will send one sample All Wool Duster free to any person who will send twelve cents for a trial three months' subscription to our great family paper. The best offer ever made. Address



GOLDEN MOMENTS, Augusta, Maine.

A GENEROUS OFFER

George B. Wright Discovers a Cure for Lost Manhood and Sends It Free to Every Sufferer Who Will Write for it.

Gratitude is one of the noblest impulses of the human heart and in few instances has this fine quality been so conspicuously exemplified as in the case of George B. Wright of Marshall.

Mr. Wright is a merchant and well known citizen of Marshall, Mich., who was permanently cured of lost manhood and nervous debility after declining health for years. He now devotes his life to helping other men who suffer as he once suffered. Mr. Wright offers to send the medical prescription that effected a cure in his case to every reader of COMFORT who is suffering to-day as he suffered. All who will drop him a letter asking for a copy of the prescription will receive it by return mail free of charge.

The following editorial by A. N. Tally, M. D., regarding Mr. Wright's prescription for lost manhood appeared in the December issue of the United States Health Reports, published at Washington, D. C.

We, as the highest American authority on all matters of health, sanitation and hygiene, are constantly, receiving letters of inquiry about a reliable cure for lost strength in men.

Therefore we have ordered an investigation to be made into the subject and our medical staff found there were many so-called cures on the market, but that many were worthless and some actually harmful. Therefore when we came upon the prescription furnished free by George B. Wright, a merchant of Marshall, Mich., we instituted a most thorough laboratory examination and found that its wonderful efficacy depended upon its being exactly compounded according to proper chemical requirements, in order to establish the proper chemical actions and reactions in the human system, and that it should especially, and above all, contain each and every ingredient named in the prescription, otherwise it would be quite inactive and worthless.

Properly mixed and containing everything called for in the prescription, its effect upon the nerve centers is truly wonderful and its nerve tonic properties easily surpassed all ordinary methods of medication.

Among the benefactors of the race may be mentioned the said George B. Wright, inasmuch that he gives this grand discovery free to all who write for it.

Taken according to directions it builds up the weak and restores to full size and vigor the nerve muscles. It brings hope and cheer and lifts up the discouraged man so that he once more enjoys the beauties of nature and the pleasures of life. Failure in business and love surely falls upon him who is weakened physically and mentally, and this sad condition is at once relieved and a new man made of him who uses this prescription.

Therefore, upon the highly favorable report of our medical staff we extend to George B. Wright's prescription for lost manhood the full editorial and official indorsement of the United States health reports. As certain as wound leaves a scar, and as sure as effect follows cause, do men live to repent their follies and indiscretions in weakness and suffering. The tortured sufferer may bear no telltale marks of ruin upon his face to betray his lost manhood. He goes to his grave a human wreck, and never tells of his sufferings for fear of shame. Such mental anguish at times drives him to the verge of desperation, and he is easy prey for those vultures in human form—quack doctors—who hold out alluring hopes of cure only to disappoint, and after robbing him of his money, plunge him into absolute despair.

No one can appreciate the horrors of lost manhood except he who has suffered them. No one can help such sufferers except he who knows a cure and has himself been restored to full manhood. A notable cure of lost manhood in an extreme case was effected in the person of George B. Wright, a music dealer and well known citizen of Marshall, Mich. Mr. Wright for years suffered the agony of lost vital power. He saw his physical power go from him as the result of insidious disease, until he was reduced to a condition of senility, and the best doctors in the country gave him up to die.

Like many others, he tried the various remedies offered by specialists for the treatment of weaknesses peculiar to men, and it was this experience that drove him to a little study and research for his own benefit.

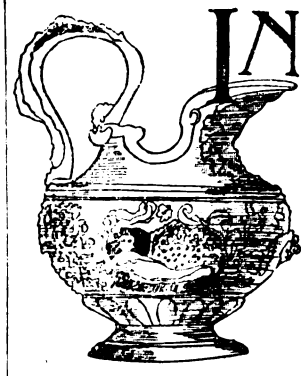
He asserts that his ten years' suffering, both mentally and physically, was turned to unbounded joy in a single night through a rare combination of medicines that literally made him young again. It is the prescription of this discovery that his enthusiasm leads him to offer free to any man, young or old, who feels that his animation or the fire of ambition has left him and needs something that will brace him up and enable him to be prepared for any undertaking which may present itself.

There is no question but what in his individual case the results were just as described, and it seems quite probable that any man who believes himself to be weak may profit by sending for this free prescription. Many people wonder how he can afford to send this prescription free, but it costs him little to do so and he feels a philanthropic interest in giving weak men an opportunity to cure themselves.

A request to G. B. Wright, music dealer, Box No. 736 Marshall, Mich., for his free prescription, will be promptly and privately complied with by return mail.

FAMOUS VASES OF THE WORLD.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



IN TAKING up this delightful branch of art we find that pottery is its own historian, and presents in its charming pictorial fashion the domestic, social, and religious customs of all savage and civilized nations on the globe. And not only history, but biography is linked with it, and brings before us many distinguished people as patrons, collectors, and the accomplished potters themselves.

These papers will deal more particularly with some of the world renowned vases which are closely associated with important use or events.

The famous *Alhambra* vase takes its name from the fortress-palace in Grenada, Spain, which was the royal abode of the Moorish kings, who were surrounded with the splendors and refinements of Asiatic luxury.

It was there where they made their last stand for empire in Spain. After Spain passed into the hands of Christians the Alhambra palace was occasionally occupied by the Castilian monarchs whose sojourn was transient, and after their departure it again became desolate. The desertion of the Court was a fatal blow to the Alhambra, and a horde of smugglers, thieves, and rogues of all sorts took up their abode in it. But when Grenada fell into the hands of the French, the Alhambra was garrisoned by their troops. The Spain of today can thank her invaders for having preserved to her this most beautiful and interesting palatial monument.

Alhamar, the first of the Moslem kings, who built the fortress-palace in 1273, was a reputed magician, because his enterprises were so quickly and successfully achieved.

His brilliant kingdom will ever be famous in history and romance. In a silver casket his remains were placed in a sarcophagus of precious marble in the Alhambra.

His motto was, "there is no conqueror but God," and through all the generations of his descendants it still appears at the present time emblazoned on the escutcheon in the halls of the palace.

There is no theme among the common people of Spain more prevalent and popular than that of treasures once buried by the Moors.

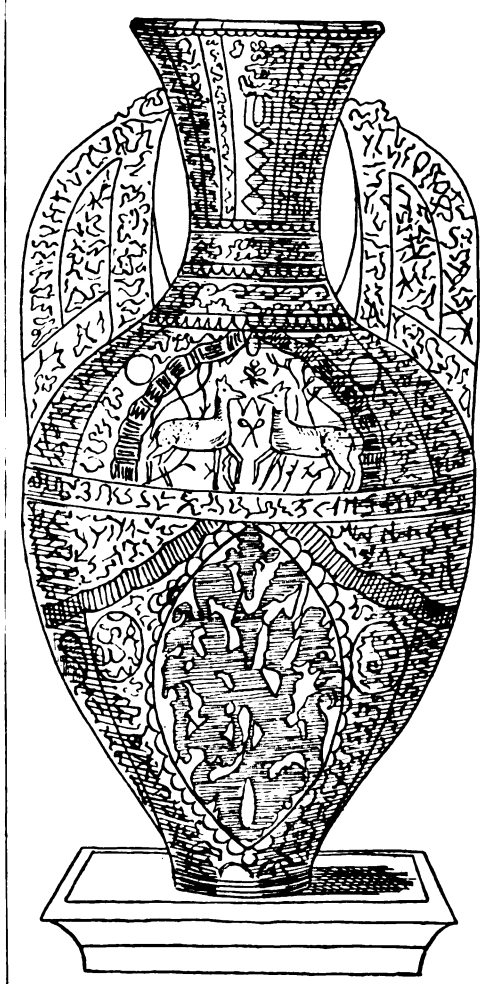
Any Spanish Mulctur will suspend smoking his *cigarrillo* to tell some tale of Moslem gold buried beneath a Moorish Notchtown. These traditions have been handed down from generation to generation among the poor people of the neighborhood. Nor were there always jobles; for during the wars between Moor and Christian which distracted the country for centuries, castles frequently and suddenly changed owners; and during sieges the inhabitants buried their money and jewels in the earth, or hid them in vaults, and wells.

The Alhambra palace, of course, from the peculiar circumstances of its history, has been a fertile source for popular fiction of this kind.

At the time of the expulsion of the Moors from Spain, many of them concealed their most precious effects, hoping that their exile would be but temporary, and that they would be enabled to return and retrieve their treasures at some future day.

It is very true, that hoards of gold and silver coin have been accidentally found among the Moorish fortresses, and the few facts have given creation for a thousand fictions.

In the ceramic art, or the art of making



THE ALHAMBRA VASE.

pottery we find no relics of this work done before the building of the Alhambra. We find among their most celebrated pieces the Alhambra Vase, so called from having been found beneath one of the pavements within the courts of the fortress-palace. It is four feet high and was made in 1320, and is composed of fine white earthernware decorated in two shades of blue combined with a copper lustre. It was copied at the Sevres pottery in France in 1842, and one of the reproductions now stands in the drawing-room of the Windsor Hotel at Saratoga Springs, and is probably the only one in America.

This famous vase, when discovered, was filled with coins and jewels, and it is supposed that it was hidden there when the Moors were driven from Spain. In this exquisite vase we find the gem of an industry, which once planted on enlightened Christian soil, grew to its present magnificent proportions. Christianity, while it forgot them, absorbed their fate. Why the Christian world should become fascinated with the characteristic arts of the worst enemies of Christendom is a question. But history is full of instances of nations accepting the tastes of nations they have conquered. The European Crusaders, the army of the Cross, quickly absorbed the ideas of Eastern decoration, and transmitted them to the European artists of the midde ages.

The Alhambra vase bears evidence of great skill and tarte, and is not only a master-piece in ceramic art, but is a magnificent example of the decorative genius of the Moors.

To-day nearly all vases from Spain present Moorish forms, and yet they are inferior to the achievements of the Moors. The Moors achieved a series of successes seldom granted to a people not given to united effort. Little remains of their wandering history except those splendid structures to be seen in Cordova, Grenada, and Seville.

In Moorish art we miss one feature which is so interesting in Egyptian ornament; that of symbolism which the religion of the Moors forbade. They confined themselves to geometrical combinations and the ever graceful arabesque. During the five or six centuries in which the Moors held possession of the finest parts of Spain, it enjoyed a greater measure of prosperity than ever before. The original vase



THE PORTLAND VASE.

now stands in a small room leading into the Lion's Court, and is an object of great beauty and interest to those who visit the Alhambra.

The Barberini or Portland Vase, this vase as being one of the most celebrated, beautiful, and valuable in existence deserves our attention. Among its compeers it retains an imperial eminence, and asserts the superior standard of ceramic art which was attained in its own unknown era.

It was discovered in a cemetery, the *Monte-del-Grano*, a few miles out of Rome, in the sixteenth century, where it had been placed in a sarcophagus. By the order of Pope Barberini, named Urban VIII. it was removed to the Barberini palace in Rome where it remained for a century. It is thought that it was placed in the tomb about the year 235 after Christ.

It contained ashes, which were supposed to be those of the Emperor Alexander Severus and his mother Julia Mammaca, both of whom were assassinated in the year of 235, during the revolt in Germany. There has been much speculation as to its composition, but connoisseurs have come to the conclusion that it is made of two layers of a substance resembling opaque glass, and may have been produced in the glassworks at Alexandria in their best period. The groundwork is very dark blue, almost black, and the ornamentation is of another strata, or layer of white, cut like cameo which makes it a very beautiful work of art.

The cameo decorations, which are brought out in fine relief, are thought to represent certain ceremonies connected with the Eleusinian mysteries, or Greek festivals in honor of Ceres.

There the compartments or decorations. The first is emblematical of moral life and expressed by a Libertina seated upon ruins beneath a deciduous tree, or one losing its leaves. She holds an inverted torch, and two companions with her seem to express the terror with which humor brings gaze upon death.

The second view is immortal life represented by a hero entering the gate of Elysium, conducted by Divine Love, and received by Immortality, who is to present him to Pluto, the judge of what company he shall seek in Elysium. Other theories are that this second view represents Orpheus' descent into Elysium to recover his beloved Eurydice, so elegantly told by Virgil; or that Admetus is recovering his wife Alcestis from Elysium. This idea is full of grace and bears the poetical impress.

This rare vase is nine inches high and twenty-nine inches in circumference, and has passed through a number of hands at fabulous prices, and was finally purchased by the Duchess of Portland, and then passed to her son the Duke of Portland in 1786, who placed it in the British Museum in London where it now stands.

In his ambition, Mr. Wedgwood, the prince of English potters, desired to reproduce some of the best works of the ancients. He was a wonderful man and far in advance of his time in the study of the antique. He could not buy the vase, but it was loaned him for a year, and in three years he produced a fine and satisfactory copy, which he produced fifty times.

Some of these are owned by private individuals, and others are in museums where everybody can see them. In this, Wedgwood won a ceramic triumph. Verily, in "Portland Mystic Urn."



AMONG the curious occupations engaged in by inhabitants of some of our great cities is that of gathering old corks. The scavengers on the outlook for these hunt in every conceivable place and collect corks in all stages of newness, some comparatively fresh, some covered with dirt and pitch. These are sold to the second-hand cork merchant for a few cents a hundred, who cleans them in acid and generally freshens them up in appearance, sorts them, and sells them for ten or twelve cents a gross to small bottlers and others who can find use for them.

A MILLION dollars worth of polished petrified wood is to be taken to the Paris Exposition. This wood is hauled from Arizona to South Dakota in great logs and stumps weighing many tons. It is then sawed up in shape for polishing by the huge machinery used for the purpose, but it is such a tedious operation that not more than three inches can be sawed in a day. After being cut and polished the stone is worked up into every conceivable shape, from cuff buttons to tops for tables and great columns, which cost a fortune. This great exhibit will be a fine advertisement for Sioux Falls, where the factory is located, for the reason that nowhere else on earth is there machinery mammoth yet delicate enough to saw, plain and put into shape the variety of useful articles to be on exhibition.

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If so try our **new importation** of Violin Strings, from one of the best Makers in Europe. Full set of four strings, A. E. G. D. or 4 of any letter for only 10 cents, Stamps or Silver.

GOLDEN MOMENTS, Augusta, Maine.

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The Educational Value *of this Arithmetical Pencil is based on the highest Multiplication Table it contains. Every person should know it. Yet many never learn it. They are thus hindered in acquiring quickness and accuracy in mental calculations so necessary to business success. It is especially recommended to young people starting in business life and to those with neglected education. Teachers recommend it to their pupils because the use of the pencil imparts a knowledge of these figures in ⅓ of the time required by the usual methods. Even the Indian office of the U. S. government has recognized its educational merits and recommended that the superintendents of all Indian schools be supplied with samples.*

SPECIAL OFFER. These Calculating Pencils sell for 25c. each, but we are anxious to show you how wonderful they are so will send one free to all who enclose 15c. for a six months' subscription to **SUNSHINE**, the great monthly, two pencils and a year's subscription for only 25c. Thousands are sold by agents. We send six pencils for 60c., twelve for one dollar, all charges paid by us. One hundred for $7.50, express not paid.

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Published Monthly at Augusta, Maine.

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Or Exceeding 15 Millions A Year.

There are some features of modern co-operative plans that appeal to the housewife with especial force during August weather. The problem of what to eat in hot weather is a tridaily worriment. A certain New England city offers an easy solution of the vexed question. A "Hot Food Company" undertakes to furnish any or all meals for any and all occasions. You may prepare your own bill of fare and give it to the canvasser and in due time the dinner or lunch arrives in a hot oven. The company's kitchens are located in various parts of the city so that delivery may be prompt.

Old Home Week is to be observed in New Hampshire from the eleventh to the thirteenth of August. Governor Rollins has sent a hearty invitation to all the absent children of the Granite State. There is a beautiful sentiment in the idea as well as a practical business side. The love of the home of childhood is strong in each human heart—it leads the wanderer home no matter how far his feet have strayed. Those who have been successful return and their presence is an inspiration to the young. Fame and fortune may be won in that world beyond the circling hills. To a foreigner this divided allegiance of Americans must seem like an anomaly. They love the nation but above all they love their native state. Large cities like New York boast clubs of residents that formerly owed allegiance to other states and keep up their love by forming societies known by the names of their native state. New Hampshire is the only state that has elaborated the idea of a reunion within its borders of all absent children.

The American people who have established the vacation have received no little pause for the fact. There is one rather amusing development that comes from an inspection of hotel registers. The "rush" idea is being applied to vacation with a serious prospect of limiting the possible good that may come from rest. In other words vacation is coming to mean only a change of the scene of hurry. The old-fashioned idea was to settle one'sself as comfortably as possible for the week or month of summer that was to be spent in rest and there proceed to rest. Now the multi-millionaire rushes from his country house to Newport, thence to the Adirondacks, with a possible trip to Europe thrown in. The person of more modest income repeats the programme in so far as his means admit and hurries from one place to another in the two weeks that he devotes to vacation. Mental rest may come from change but there is a physical side to vacation that the new style of "hurry" leaves all unprovided for. We Americans must hurry—even when we are supposed to be resting.

A Philadelphia artist announces the startling fact that the feminine neck has increased one inch in length during the last five years. His attention was first drawn to the fact by an observation of the portraits in the Academy. A tape measure was applied to the portraits painted ten years ago, five years ago and now; the data produced the result—one inch increase in five years. Not for rhetoric only have we coined the classical phrase "rubbernecking". The added inch however while it may be a cause of "rubbering" is not a result of the habit. No; it is the clean prim linen collars. First they were accused of ruining the neck, then young women were urged to use them for when they were old they could not; now they are to be responsible for the actual "swan like necks" that poetry has lauded so long. It may possibly be that women have noticed the way their heads were going up in the air and that this accounts for the collarless gown of the latest mode. One wonders what the artist would say to the portraits of our grandmothers with the long necks and sloping shoulders. No linen collar then, surely.

A district messenger boy has made the long voyage to the Transvaal to deliver a message of sympathy to Oom Paul from some of the High School boys of America. This is only another development of the use of school children in political matters. It is foolish in the extreme for this reason if no other. Boys of the high school age can not form opinions independently and it is a moral wrong to influence them to partisanship. As Dooley remarked "Politics is a man's game and women and children and prohibitionists had best keep out of it." It is deplorable to use youth as a means of creating excitement or sympathy for a cause. Our Canadian friends saw in this an attempt to show anti-English spirit and proposed to retaliate by sending a Canadian school boy with a message of sympathy to Aguinaldo. The project has met with little support, the most enthusiastic interest however being shown in the United States. Many letters from Americans who approved the scheme were received. When children are brought into the game of nations for simply spectacular purposes every thinking person must feel a certain humiliation.

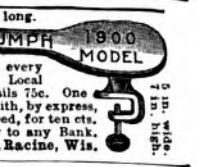
The lovers of the phrase "Figures will not lie" anticipate a rich feast in the statistical fact of the present census. The colored maid who prefaced the question of the census enumerator by announcing that the "sensitive man" had come stated but half the truth. Even the most callous collector of facts might become sensitive over the manner in which the questions prescribed by law were answered. The details of enumerators are no doubt amusing enough but they will sink into insignificance beside the deductions that the professional jugglers with fact, fancy and figures will produce. Of all weird and wonderful liars in existence figures are easily first. The census of 1890 states that there are 79,032 more married males in the United States than there are married females. As the widowed are tabulated separately there is but one logical conclusion to be drawn from these figures—that is that a large per cent. of the married women of the United States are bigamists who haven't been discovered by the law. The absurdities of statistical deductions could be multiplied indefinitely. The simplest way is to fortify yourself against being influenced by any sweeping conclusions drawn from the census of 1900.

Holland is holding a Royal Dutch Naval Exhibition which has been throughout the summer and continues until September. One of the royal palaces at the Hague is in use for the exhibition and the young queen has ordered medals to be presented to the most important exhibitors. The exhibition comprises portraits of celebrated naval commanders, descriptions of voyages, charts, models of vessels, and many other records and mementoes of the success of Holland on the sea. Holland was the first nation of the world to attain any rank as a commercial and seafaring power. With the thrifty spirit that has marked Dutch enterprise they sent ships to all the seven seas and their commerce and settlements followed their ships. Holland was one of the earliest nations to become a colonial power and to-day its colonies are five times the size of the mother country. They became the carriers of Europe. England early saw the menace to her commercial interests and in 1651 first passed the Navigation Laws that demanded that all English colonies should trade only in English ships. This was aimed especially at Holland which was then at war with England. It was the commencement of England's colonial power although it was an indirect cause of the loss of her American colonies. The powerful trading companies like the Dutch East India Company have had few rivals. The greatness of Holland has been in its supremacy as a trading nation. Our greatest city once named New Amsterdam is a lasting monument of the foresight of these old Dutch traders. For this reason if no other Americans feel a special interest in the exhibition of Holland's Navy.

There is a somewhat despairing tone in the voice of the conservatives who shrink from the threshold of the new national life that is forced upon us. Hawaii, The Philippines, Porto Rico and the troubles in China all means a new national policy. To the student who rereads the neutrality ideas of Washington as shown in 1789 when Citizen Genet was seeking our aid, and again in his farewell address when he reiterated the declaration that we should keep clear from entangling foreign alliances, we seem to be drifting far from the policy of our fathers. The Monroe Doctrine is but an amplification of Washington's ideas. The recent suggestions made by our Secretary of State in regard to the possibility of either re-affirming or abandoning this principle awakened much apprehension. To the thinker familiar with the history of nations there seems little to awaken apprehension. We can not reconcile the present with the past. To make a fetish of the wise utterances of the men who thought and spoke for the republic in its youth is to announce once for all an end to progress. Jefferson, Hamilton, Washington all and each spoke for the age in which they lived and for our nation in its infancy. Even as strong a party man as Jefferson repudiated his own spoken utterances and the principles of his party when it seemed wisdom to purchase Louisiana. We can not look backwards but forwards. The history of every nation shows a conflict between a party of progress and a party demanding the holding to old conditions. The answer of history shows the inevitable result of the struggle. The history of civilization shows that progress is inevitable and that traditions and precedent must be abandoned at some stage of the advance. China to-day is passing through the struggle but the outcome is plain. Our traditions and precedents must be set aside in the face of new conditions.

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LIST OF THE PIECES OFFERED AT THIS TIME.

No.	PIANO OR ORGAN.	
165	American Liberty March	Cook
101	Ancients Abroad, March—Two Step	Cook
247	Artist's Life Waltzes	Strauss
181	Auld Lang Syne. Variations	Durkee
187	Austrian Song. Op. 69, 1	Pacher
215	Battle of Waterloo. Descriptive	Anderson
179	Beauties of Paradise Waltz. 4 hands	Strobbog
227	Beautiful Blue Danube Waltzes	Strauss
65	Bells of Corneville. Potpourri	Elson
213	Black Hawk Waltzes	Walsh
257	Blue Bells of Scotland. Trans.	Richards
221	Bluebird Echo Polka	Morrison
199	Boston Commandery March	Carter
109	Bridal March from Lohengrin	Wagner
229	Bryan and Sewall March	Noles
133	Cadences and Scales in all Keys	Czerny
1	Catherine Waltzes	Stroh
255	Cavaleria Rusticana. Four hands.	Mascagni
237	Cherokee Roses Waltz. 4 hands.	Behr
145	Clayton (Adjutant) March—Two Step	Missud
217	Cleveland's March	Noles
81	Coming from the Races Galop	Wheeler
269	Coppelia. Valse Lente	Delibes
211	Corn Flower Waltzes	Coote, Jr
41	Crack Four March	Ashton
71	Crystal Dew Waltz	Durkee
235	Day Dawn Polka	Cook
163	Dewey's Grand Triumphal March	Marcel
117	Echoing Trumpets March	Noles
121	Electric Light Galop	Durkee
91	Estella, Air de Ballet. Very fine.	Robinson
107	Ethel Polka	Simons
155	Evergreen Waltz	Stoddard
241	Fantastic Schottische	Gabriel
231	Faust. Selections	Durkee
77	Fifth Nocturne	Leybach
233	Flirting in the Starlight. Waltz	Lasaide
239	Flower Song. Op. 39.	Lange
97	Fresh Life	Spindler
177	Frolic of the Frogs.	Watson
49	Full of Ginger. March Galop.	Nutting
183	Golden Rain. Nocturne	Cloy
147	Grand Commandery March—Two Step	Missud
53	Greeting of Spring, op. 21	Schultz
185	Her Bright Smile Haunts Me Still	Richards
173	Hobson of the Merrimac Waltzes	Jewell
139	Home, Sweet Home. Transcription	Slack
17	Impassioned Dream Waltzes	Rosas
153	Jenny Lind polka. Four hands	Muller
157	Last Hope. Meditation	Gottschalk
195	Leap Year Schottische	Kahn
253	Le Petit Bal. Polka Mazurka.	Behr
159	Lee's (Gen'l) "On to Cuba" galop	Durkee
249	Lohengrin. Selections	Durkee
141	London March—Two Step	Missud
243	Love's Dreamland Waltzes	Roerer
99	Maiden's Prayer, The	Badarzewske
45	March Winds Galop	Mansfield
240	Martha Selections	Johnson
207	May Breezes. Four hands	Krug
263	May Day Schottische	Keefer
225	McKinley and Hobart March	Turner
55	Memorial Day March	Hewitt
131	Monastery Bells. Nocturne	Wely
89	Morning Dew, op. 18	Smith
61	Morning Star Waltz	Zahn
201	Music Box, The. Caprice	Liebich
137	My Love Polka	Ziehrer
125	My Old Kentucky Home Variations	Cook
87	National Anthems of Eight Great Nations	
175	National Songs of America	Blake
135	Nightingale's Trill, op. 81	Kullak
123	Old Folks at Home. Transcription	Blake
171	Old Oaken Bucket, The. Variations	Durkee
219	On the Wave Waltz	Dinsmore
197	Oregon, Queen of the Sea. Two-step	Robinson
245	Orvetta Waltz	Spencer
9	Our Little Agnes. Waltz	Gregoire
191	Over the Waves Waltz	Rosas
79	Please Do Waltz	Durkee
193	Poet and Peasant Overture (Suppe)	Brunner
265	Psyche. Gavotte	Mattei
167	Red, White and Blue Forever. March	Blake
143	Richmond March—two-step	Missud
245	Rustic Waltz	Schumann
127	Rustling Leaves. Idylle	Lange
39	Ruth, Esther and Marion Schottische.	Cohen
149	Salem Witches March—Two-Step	Missud
189	Schubert's Serenade. Transcription	Liszt
161	Silvery Waves. Variations	Wyman
169	Smith's (General) March	Martin
31	Song of the Voyager	Paderewski
95	Spirit Lake Waltz	Simons
259	Spring Flowers Polka	Devrient
151	Storm, The. Imitation of Nature	Weber
73	Storm Mazurka	Keefer
109	Sultan's Band March	Brown
209	Sweet Long Ago. Transcription	Blake
115	Tornado Galop	Arbuckle
103	Trifet's Grand March, op. 182	Wedel
223	Twilight Echoes. Song without words	Jewell
113	Under the Double Eagle March	Wagner
129	Venetian Waltz	Ludovic
205	Village Parade Quickstep	Allen
7	Visions of Light. Waltz	Cook
203	Warblings at Eve	Richards
93	Waves of the Ocean March	Blake
261	Wedding March	Mendelssohn
251	Winsome Grace. A perfect gem.	Howe
119	Woodland Whispers Waltzes	Stanley
105	Zephyr Waltz.	Bragg

No.	VOICE AND PIANO OR ORGAN.	
236	Across the Bridge	Le Brunn
2	Annie's Love. Duet for Sop. and Ten.	Winter
260	At Noontide	Hill
27	Ave Maria. From Cavaleria Rusticana	Mascagni
140	Beacon Light of Home	Estabrooke
134	Beautiful Moonlight. Duet	Glover
238	Bells of Seville	H. Jude
162	Ben Bolt, of "Trilby" fame	Kneass
226	Blue Eyes	Elson
246	Boyhood Days, Chorus	Fritz
200	Bridge, The. Words by Longfellow	Carew
268	Bride Bells	Roeckel
192	Can You, Sweetheart, Keep a Secret?	Estabrooke
214	Childhood's Happy Hours	Dinsmore
138	Christmas Carol	Turner
190	Come When the Soft Twilight Falls	Schumann
168	Coon's Breach of Promise. Cake walk	Blake
92	Cow Bells, The. Boyhood's Recollection	Grimm
250	Darling I Shall Miss You	Cohen
176	Darling Nellie Gray	Hanby
244	De Banjo am de Instrument	Rutledge
70	Dear Heart, We're Growing Old	Estabrooke
128	Don't drink, my Boy, tonight. Temp.	Hoover
256	Dwelling with the Angels. Chorus.	Turner
50	Easter Eve. Sacred	Gounod
220	Ever Sweet is Thy Memory	Hofeld
19	'E Dunno Where 'E Are. Comic	Eplett
72	Elialine. Waltz song	Betts
180	Far Away	Bliss
182	Father is Drinking Again. Temperance	
152	Flag of Our Country. Patriotic	Mathiot
156	Flag, The. Quartette	Foz
144	Flirting in the Starlight	Delano
8	Flossie. Waltz Song	Cohen
138	For a Dream's Sake	Cowen
66	For You We are Praying at Home	Estabrooke
166	From our Home the Loved are Going	Percy
202	Give a Kiss to Me	Percy
178	God Bless My Kind Old Mother	Jewell
204	Golden Moon	Ivan
262	Greeting Duet	Mendelssohn
150	Gypsy Countess. Duet	Glover
198	Heart of My Heart	Robinson
184	I Can't Forget the Happy Past	Skelly
74	In Sweet September	Temple
248	In Shadowland	Pinsuti
266	In Summer Time	Meerzials
188	In the Starlight. Duet	Glover
28	Juanita. Ballad	May
242	Kathleen Mavourneen	Crouch
196	Killarney	Balfe
132	Kiss me, but don't say goodbye	Rutledge
130	Kiss that bound my Heart to thine	Keil
164	Larboard Watch. Duet	Williams
146	Listen to the Mocking Bird	Hawthorne
48	Little Boy Blue. Solo or Duet	Estabrooke
154	Little Voices at the Door	Danks
96	Lost Chord, The	Sullivan
234	Margaretta	Balfe
112	Massa's Sleeping in de Churchyard	Keefer
230	Memories of my Mother. Chorus	Allen
52	Mother's Cry, A. (Salvation Army)	Adriance
172	Mother's Welcome at the Door	Estabrooke
222	Musical Dialogue. Duet	Helmund
232	Must the Sweet Tie that binds	Estabrooke
76	My Home by the Old Mill	O'Halloran
110	My Little Lost Irene	Danks
170	My Old Kentucky Home	Foster
216	Oh, Sing Again that Gentle Strain,	Dinsmore
228	Old Folks at Home (Swanee Ribber)	Foster
60	Old Glory. National	Woods
102	Old Sexton, The	Russell
270	Old Village Church	Hatton
104	On the Banks of the Beautiful River	Estabrooke
90	On the Beach. Most beautiful ballad	Robinson
258	Out on the Deep	Lohr
160	Outcast, An. Character Song	Fritz
174	Parted from our Dear Ones	Keller
254	Picture of My Mother, The	Skelly
148	Poor Girl didn't know. Comic.	Cooke
136	Request. Sacred	Grainger
208	Rocked in the Cradle of the Deep	Knight
142	Rosemonde	Chaminade
80	See Those Living Pictures	Guth
224	Shall I Ever See Mother's Face Again?	Adriance
194	She Sleeps among the Daisies	Dinsmore
124	Softly shine the Stars of Evening	Dinsmore
210	Son's Return, The	Fritz
120	Storm at Sea. Descriptive	Hullah
10	Sweetest Song, The	Denza
32	Sweet Long Ago, The	Estabrooke
46	That Word was Hope. Waltz song	Nutting
118	There's a Rainbow in the Clouds	Danks
206	There's Sure to be a Way	Delano
158	Thinking of Home and Mother	Cohen
116	'Tis True, Dear Heart, We're Fading	Estabrooke
108	Tread softly, the Angels are calling	Turner
38	True to the Last	Adams
64	Vicar of Bray, The. Old English Song	
62	Your Mother's Love for You	Koppt
252	Warrior Bold	Adams
84	What are the Wild Waves Saying? Duet	Glover
58	When the Roses are Blooming Again	Skelly
86	When Winter Days Have Gone	Trayne
186	Whistling Wife, The. Comic	Randall
212	Why am I ever Watching	deLasaide
218	Why do Summer Roses Fade	Barker

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LONGING.

WORDS AND MELODY BY JEAN MCDONALD. ARRANGED BY LEAFY PACE.

mf

1. Back to the old home view - ing scenes of child - hood, there's where I
2. Tho' I am old now still I love to lin - ger on hap - py

ril. *p*

know no care or pain; . . . . There in my child - ish glee, un - der the wood-land tree, Oh! how I long to go to
thot's of by - gone days; . . . . When thro' the woods I roamed, far from the dear old home, Gath- er - ing the scent - ed flow - ers

the old home once a - gain; . When in my dream - ing, vis-ions rise be - fore me and seem to take me back once more. . . . . .
that grew a - long the way. . . Now I'm a - lone, no lov- ing hands to soothe me, those that I loved have gone be - fore. . . . . .

p *ril.*

Back to that spot so dear, with moth - er stand - ing near; Yes, I can see her in those hap - py days of yore.
But while my loved ones wait, there at the gold - en gate, Take me, oh, take me back to the dear old home once more.

CHORUS.

Back to the old home take me, Where in my child-hood I roamed, Back to the scenes of those

joy - ous days, Back to the dear old home. . . . . .

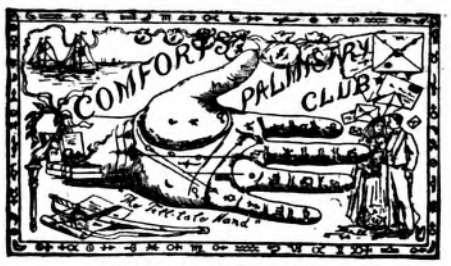
After 1st verse only.

ril. FINE. *D. S.*

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Unfortunate Singers. After a career of dazzling success and great prosperity the De Reszkes are both in Europe meeting with some misfortunes. It is openly published that the magnificent tenor voice of Jean De Reszke has completely given out; and that it is doubtful if he is ever again able to continue a public career. How great is this misfortune can be judged from the fact that he receives from $1500 to $2500 for an evening's performance. His brother, Edouard, left this country in April with the intention of visiting his three daughters at boarding school in Paris, before returning to Poland where his wife and youngest daughter live. The latter died shortly after her father's return and he was obliged to hurry the sisters back to Poland. Less than a year ago he lost an only son when only a few months old.

COMFORT again takes occasion this month to call the attention of its readers to the music offer on another page. The elegant sheet music obtainable under this offer is absolutely guaranteed satisfactory to our friends. If you will try it once we will cheerfully refund the money should it prove in the least disappointing; but it will not. Try it yourself and ask your friends to.



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To have one's hands read in this department, by Digitus, one of the finest living palmists, it is necessary to observe the following conditions:

Impressions of both hands must be sent, fully postpaid and having the name, address and nom de plume of the sender enclosed in the package also.

The package must in every instance be accompanied by the names and addresses of eight new subscribers at twenty-five cents each, the whole amount, $2.00 being remitted, with the package, addressed to COMFORT PALMISTRY CLUB, Augusta, Maine.

No notice will be taken of impressions and requests for readings unless the sender has fully complied with the above conditions.

To take impressions, first hold two large pieces of blank paper over a candle or similar flame, until they are heavily coated with the smoke. Then lay these pieces down, smoke side uppermost on a pad of cotton. Now place the two hands, palms downward, one on each sheet of paper, pressing firmly and steadily down, but taking care not to move the hand. Keep them so for one minute and lift carefully, so as not to disturb the impression. Have ready some fixatif, which can be bought at a drug store or an art store or made with gum arabic and water in an atomizer. Spray this over the impressions before they are moved and allow them to dry. Then they are ready to send.

Smoked paper impressions are the best. But if it is desired to send a plaster cast, take plaster of Paris and dissolve in water to the consistency of thick cream. Pour this into a large shallow dish and when it is hardening place the hand, well-greased, palm downward, in the plaster, pressing downward. Several minutes will be required to get this impression and great care must be taken in removing the hand, not to break the plaster. Casts are exceedingly difficult to send without breaking and should be very carefully packed in a box with the name of the sender written on it. Putty is sometimes successfully used in place of plaster. A good photograph if sufficiently well taken to bring out all the lines, can also be read, although in all cases the smoked paper is the best, if properly treated with fixatif.

Bear in Mind that all the above conditions must be observed.

Also, that letters not complying with them will go into the waste-basket. Readings cannot appear for several months after impressions are sent.

I HAVE had so many inquiries regarding the lines of marriage that I am going to quote from my friend Cheiro in regard to them. He does not follow exactly the same rule that some of the palmists do, but I have noticed that he is much more correct in his prognostications than some of the other readers are. He says what I have always maintained in this respect, that the lines under the fourth finger must be balanced by marks on other portions of the hand, as, for instance, on the side of the line of fate or the lines of influence by the side of the lines of life. He notices another thing that the lines of marriage may be on the side of the hand or may be only marked across the front of the Mount of Mercury. The long lines relate to marriage, the short ones meaning only engagements or short love affairs. On the line of life or fate, if it be marriage we will find it corroborated and information given as to the change in life, position of the marriage line on the Mount of Mercury a very fair idea of the age at the time of marriage may also be obtained.

When the important line is found lying close to the line of heart, the union will be early, about fourteen to twenty-one; near the center of the mount, about twenty-one to twenty-eight; three-quarters up the mount, twenty-eight to thirty-five; and so on. But the line of fate or the line of life will be more accurate, by giving almost the exact date of the change of influence.

A wealthy union is shown by a strong, well-marked line from the side of the line of fate next Luna, running up and joining the line of fate, when the marriage line on Mercury is also well marked.

When, however, the line of influence rises straight on the Mount of Luna and then runs up and into the fate line, the marriage will be more the capricious fancy than real affection.

When the line of influence is stronger than the subject's line of fate, then the person the subject marries will have greater power and more individuality than the subject.

The happiest mark of marriage on the line of fate is when the influence line lies close to the fate line and runs evenly with it.

The line of marriage on the Mount of Mercury should be straight, without breaks, crosses, or irregularities of any kind.

When it curves or droops downward toward the line of heart, it foretells that the person with whom the subject is married will die first.

When the lines curve upward, the possessor is not likely to marry at any time.

When the line of marriage is distinct, but with fine hair-lines dropping from it toward the line of heart, it foretells trouble brought on by the illness and bad health of the person whom the subject marries.

When the line droops with a small cross over the curve, the person the subject is married to will die by accident or sudden death; but when there is a long, gradual curve, gradual ill health will cause the end.



GOV. ALTGELD.

When the line has an island in the center or at any portion, it denotes some very great trouble in married life and a separation while the island lasts.

When the line divides at the end with a drooping fork sloping toward the center of the hand, it tells of divorce or a judicial separation. This is all the more certain if a fine line cross from it to the plain of Mars.

When the line is full of little islands and drooping lines, the subject should be warned not to marry. Such a mark is a sign of the greatest unhappiness.

When full of little islands and forked it is again a sign of unhappiness in marriage.

When the line breaks in two, it denotes a sudden break in the married life.

When the line of marriage sends an offshoot on to the Mount of Sun and into the line of sun, it tells that its possessor will marry some one of distinction, and generally a person in some way famous.

When, on the contrary, it goes downward and cuts the line of sun, the person on whose hand it appears will lose position through marriage.

When a deep line from the top of the mount grows downward and cuts the line of marriage, there will be a great obstacle and opposition to such marriage.

When there is a fine line running parallel with and almost touching the marriage line, it tells of some deep affection after marriage on the side of the person on whose hand it appears.

With these rules from one so prominent and so successful as Cheiro, I believe that the students in this department will obtain much help and be able to go on and read hands quite freely.

The best fate line starts from the rascette and goes straight up through the hand to the Mount of Saturn and even sometimes goes on up to the second joint of the middle finger which indicates great fortune. If the line goes over to the Mount of Apollo it indicates fortune from art or wealth. A perfectly straight line with branches going upward from its two sides indicates a gradual progress from poverty to riches. Straightness and good color from the line of heart up show good fortune in old age with invention in science and a love of country life. A good and well-traced fate line will offset at any time the evil indications of a badly formed life line and will even give a long life.

If the fate line only starts from the line of head it indicates pain and ill health early in life, but with a good head line will indicate fortune acquired late by the intelligence of the subject. It is a very bad sign to have the fate line start from the quadrangle and go only to the Mount of Saturn. If it starts all right at the bottom of the hand and then disappears for a time appearing again later, it indicates that there will be a period of bad luck extending over such length of time as is indicated by the absence of the line, that is, if there is a gap or break from the line of head to just below the line of heart, there will be misfortunes between the ages of thirty and forty and a connecting line will usually show the cause of the ill luck.

I have only one hand to reproduce this month and that is the hand of Governor Altgeld of Illinois. This is a peculiarly marked hand of a very stubborn, phlegmatic individual. It is easy to be seen that the owner of this hand would not be coerced by any war of words, that he would be a hard enemy to deal with. He is a man of very strong personality and one who has had to fight his way from his youth up. His mentality is not very strong except as he has a sort of bull dog pugnacity which helps him. He has considerable tact, however, much more than we should expect in a man like him. His head line is very short, but it indicates that he will have the courage of his convictions. This is indicated elsewhere in his hand to such a degree that he is almost headstrong. He would not give in to anybody else even though he knew that he was in the wrong he would not give up. He has a tremendous will power and an unbounded love of authority, which will keep him at the head of things when discouragements are so great that other men would quickly yield. He had many obstacles to fight against in the first part of his life, but has persevered and will live to his allotted three score years and ten, unless some sudden accident carries him off. He has had a great many things to worry and annoy him and during the first half of his life more than the world realizes. He cares but little for the opposite sex and marriage and family ties are of but little consideration to him. He is, however, a good business man and will accumulate property as long as he lives.

One of the important things to be remembered by the student is the difference between the right and left hands. There is a marked difference between them in the case of nearly every one and the reader should examine both and depend more upon the information contained in the right hand than in the left, since the right shows the strength and experience, while the left shows the natural character. Place both hands side by side and examine them carefully. In case of a left-handed person, the left is the one to be depended upon.

The shape of the hand also has a great deal to do with the reading of it. The indications are by no means confined to the palm. The reading of the shape and quality of the hand is called chirognomy and gives us a superficial idea, by the formation and general appearance, of the character and disposition. Remember there are seven types of hands. Note the palm of the hand, whether it is thick or thin, well proportioned or over developed, hard or soft, whether the palm is hollow and whether there is any excess of formation; then consider the joints, whether they are developed fully or abnormally, whether the fingers are smooth or jointed and the quality of the joints, then take into account the comparative length of the fingers and the size of the hand and the hand writing if possible, the general qualities of the fingers and the finger tips, whether square, spatulate, round or conical and the color of the hands; hairiness of the hand must also be taken into account as it indicates strength of character or the absence of it.

Consider the thumb, first and second joints, as to whether the will, reason and tact are developed, whether the thumb be large or small and the modifying signs on it. The construction of the hand is important and each individual finger must be studied with all its characteristics. Then the habitual action and natural position of the hand must be accounted for and the finger nails, whether they are short, broad, wide or narrow in shape and the quality of them also.

The seven types are the elementary or necessary hand, the spatulate, active hand, the conical artistic hand, the square or useful hand, the knotty hand, the pointed or Psyche hand and one which is more common and may be made up of any two or three of the other types.

Digitus

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The Postal Exhibit at Paris.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



A NOTABLE feature of the United States display at the Paris Exposition will be that of the Postal exhibit. This is in charge of Mr. George W. Beavers, chief of the salary and allowance division of the United States Postoffice, who proposes to establish a model post office in the building set apart for the United States exhibit. This will serve a double purpose, as it will not only give visitors to the exposition an actual, practical working model of our postal system, but, as it will handle all mail belonging to citizens of our country visiting the exposition, it will be of inestimable value to such visitors. In this model postoffice it will be possible to watch the progress of letters from the moment they are mailed; to see them collected, turned in at the office, assorted, stamped, and distributed according to States. The cancelling machines now in use in this department, and which have made such a revolution in the past few years in the handling of mail, will be at work here in several different patterns, as well as all other recent devices for lessening the labor and expediting the work of the postal service. Mr. Beavers has for some months been in correspondence with the manufacturers who furnish apparatus of various kinds for handling the work of a first-class office, and their response has been so generous that he is already well supplied with samples of all the appliances used in the service.

Mr. Beavers has also in his exhibit examples of the system of files and of the method of filing applications for increase of salary and allowance which he has invented and which are in use in his division in the national postoffice in Washington. This system of files is the most complete and satisfactory of any now in use in any department, and is well worth the careful study of the visitor interested in such matters.

There will also be a display, in this exhibit, of articles from the United States Postoffice Museum, showing the curious articles which sometimes go through the mails.

There is also here a full issue of all the stamps used at present in the United States, also a full collection of all issues since the stamping system was first invented.

Another interesting portion of this exhibit is that of the development of the postal service, from the pack pony, the horse and saddle bags, dogs drawing a sledge, etc., to the modern mail car with all the latest improvements.

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No home, picnic, camping, or outing party is complete without one. To recline in one of these health-giving articles in some cool nook after the day's work is done, or on a Sunday afternoon, is to repose in the lap of luxury.

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EDITOR'S NOTE. The following rules govern the publication of matter in this department.

Contributors must without exception be regular subscribers to Comfort, and every contribution must bear the writer's own name and post-office address in full.

Original letters only, which deal with matters of general interest, will be published. They must be as brief, plain and correct as the writers can make them, and may vary in length from one hundred to four hundred words. Only letters of exceptional merit and interest may reach six hundred and fifty words. Contributors must write on one side of the paper only.

$10 CASH PRIZES $10.

The following cash prizes will be paid monthly:

1st.	For the best original letter	$3.00
2nd.	" " second best original letter	2.50
3rd.	" " third " " "	2.00
4th.	" " fourth " " "	1.50
5th.	" " fifth " " "	1.00

Competitors for these monthly cash prizes must *comply with all the above rules*, and in addition must bring at least one new Cousin into the COMFORT circle; that is, they must send one new subscriber with each letter, together with 50 cents for a yearly subscription.

These cash prizes will be announced monthly in this department.

No premiums will be given for subscriptions sent in under this Prize Offer.

All communications must be addressed to Aunt Minerva, care of COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

CASH PRIZE WINNERS.

Loula K. Rogers,	**$3.00**
B. T. Max,	**2.50**
Ivea B. Clark,	**1.00**

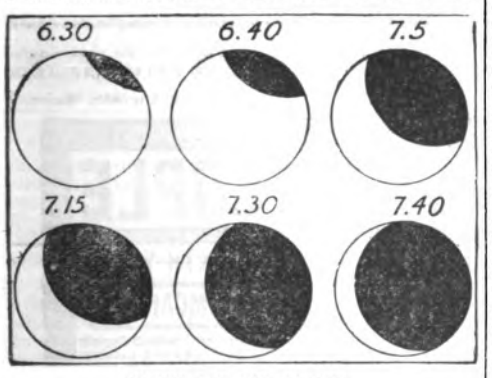
DEAR NIECES AND NEPHEWS:

Welcome to you all. And a warm welcome it must of necessity be this hot August weather. I wish I could gather you all together with me on the Maine seashore or in the Colorado mountains to read this month's packet of letters; but since that is impossible let us each make herself or himself as comfortable as individual circumstances will allow while reading them.

Our first letter explains itself, and will, I think, although late in reaching you, be interesting to all who were not so fortunate as to see the eclipse for themselves. I had the pleasure of watching it from the navy yard in Portsmouth, Va., and my impressions of it were much the same as those of Mrs. Rogers.

"I think your many readers will be deeply interested in a description of the grand solar eclipse of 1900.

"Our classic little city was fortunate enough to be in the very center of the belt of totality, and Macon, Atlanta and other large cities sent their hundreds to this capital of the eclipse. On a woodland slope near the suburbs Prof. Updegraff of the Naval Observatory at Washington established his



PHASES OF THE ECLIPSE.

fine astronomical apparatus, an immense spectroscope, water clock, powerful telescopes and other needful arrangements for observation. On another eminence, not far distant, were representatives of the ancient universities of Leyden and Utrecht, while on a level space almost in the city, was the plant of the New Jersey Observatory. About two miles west, on a spur of the mountain, was stationed Prof. Lord of the University of Ohio, while on another well chosen spot was the tent of the Philadelphia High School.

"Ordinary business was suspended and at five o'clock, when the Queen of Morn had lightly tipped each hill with gold, hundreds of people wended their way to the great reservoir which crowns Mount Hawthorn. There it was thought the shadow bands would be manifested more distinctly. It is a favored spot indeed, not only for witnessing an eclipse, but for gorgeous sunsets and all things bright to lovers of Nature. There is a magnificent view of the surrounding hills, broad cotton fields, vineyards and peach orchards, while the city with its factories, cotton mills, church steeples and beautiful homes presents a picture worth seeing at any time, independent of an eclipse.

"The times of the contact, which are observable on the cut, were in accordance with the predictions of the astronomers. Just before the period of totality wavy shadows like ripples of water moved onward from the west and cast upon open spaces crescent-shaped figures, being a reflection of the sun's image at that moment. On the horizon in every direction was a broad belt of grayish blue, blending into crimson, then into paler pink, and finally assuming a salmon hue before blending with the solemn leaden shade of the sky. The moon was no longer a fair, pale goddess but an immense ball of midnight blackness which impertinently obtruded its grandeur upon the glorious orb of day, jealously shutting out the last golden ray. A deep stillness fell upon the expectant throng. A wierd, unearthly shadow was over the world. Every heart was subdued and felt the Presence of a mighty, unseen Power beyond all this. One could scarcely distinguish his best friend. But see! there is a brilliant circle of dazling light around the dark shadow of the moon and two great bands of light! That is the corona, such as the immaculate halo that surrounds the Eternal King. Is it not grand beyond expression! The astronomers say those rays extend over millions of miles.

"To the right proud Mercury sat in majestic contemplation, while farther down was beautiful Aldebaran, both revealing for the first time their glory to Aurora. In a few moments the great celestial display was over and we returned to every-day life with a magnificent scene which time can never efface, pictured on memory's walls."

LOULA K. ROGERS, BARNESVILLE, GA.

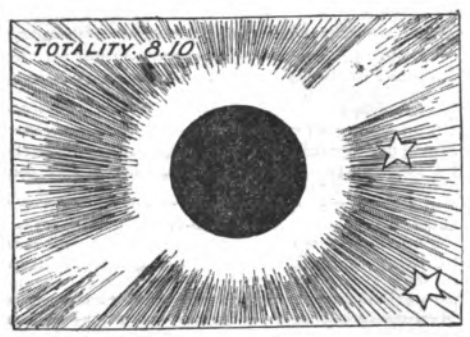
At my point of observation of the eclipse various objects, leaves of trees, the rims of our hats, and even straight articles, gave these same crescent shaped shadows, with the strange phenomenon that these shadows were not heavy and black, but mere lace-like edges of shadow. The corona seemed to me to be of dazzling golden light instead of "white" as our writer saw it, and the "two great bands of light" resembled, as I saw them, the shafts of light which shoot out from the Aurora Borealis. Strange, indeed, was it to see the stars appear, one after another, in the somber sky, while the beautiful dawn tints on the horizon were wonderful to behold.

Here is a letter from our cousin who is a page in the Texas Lesislature.

"Port Arthur is situated on Sabine Lake in the southeastern extremity of Texas. The lake is too shallow for navigation of ocean steamers, but the enterprising people procured three large dredge boats, and worked them night and day for two years, and the result is they have made a channel through the prairie eight miles long, sixteen feet wide and from sixteen to twenty-five feet deep. I saw the first steamer that ever came through it, the United States Revenue Cutter Galveston, and as it came up to the wharf after its trip, the United States band of the 2d. Mo. U. S. V's played the Star Spangled Banner, all the whistles blew and cannon boomed, and the Port Arthur channel was formally opened, and a new port was given to Texas, one that will add to its commercial facilities ten fold.

"After a trip on the channel we returned and inspected the mammoth grain elevator, which has a carrying capacity of thirty thousand bushels per hour, which is said to be the greatest carrying capacity of any elevator in the world."

ALBERT ADAMS, Austin, Texas.



Our next letter is a deeply interesting one.

"The Massachusetts Reformatory is located at Concord, that famous old town of many historic associations. What odd contrasts of old and new! The battlefield, and recently erected monument,—

'By the rude bridge which spanned the flood,—
Their flag to Freedom's breeze unfurled,
The rude, embattled farmers stood,
And fired the shot heard round the world.'

"Emerson's home is on one side of the village, and the Reformatory on the other; the 'Wayside', where Hawthorne wrote, and where later Louise M. Alcott evolved her winsome 'Little Women', the 'Hall of Philosophy' are there; and on the same street the farm on which was originated that most popular of fruits, the 'Concord grape.'

"It was not of Concord I started to write, however, but of an incident at the Reformatory. About four years ago a young man was sent there from the police court of Boston. He had been convicted of assault with intent to rob. He was a notoriously tough character, who had been arrested several times before, and who was known to the police as always ready to fight. When placed in the Reformatory he was sullen and rebellious, and very soon had to be punished. All the inmates of the Reformatory learn a trade. This man was set to engraving. He was very soon found to have a decided talent for this. In the room where he worked was some clay for modeling. One day he picked up a piece and almost involuntarily moulded it into an artistic object. He was transferred to that department and soon developed remarkable talent. He modeled a beautiful, life-size head of the Madonna. Then he took as a model one of the boys in the shop, and made a capital life-size likeness of him. The Superintendent, Mr. J. F. Scott, took so much interest in the case that he had an experienced workman come up from Boston to give the prisoner several lessons. The work occupied two years, and under its influence the 'tough' prisoner became a changed man. At first he was as quick tempered and ugly as ever, but when he became angry he seemed to stop and say to himself, 'Now if I'm not careful what I do I shall be punished.' That would mean depriving him of the time to work at his favorite occupation, and in the end the desire to keep on with this would conquer. His deportment came to be so good that he was released after a confinement of two years, and is now employed as a successful carver in an establishment in a large city where he gets good pay and has an opportunity to study evenings in a first class art school.

B. T. MAX, Concord, N. H.

Here is a new cousin who tells us of her far western home.

"My home is in beautiful Larkin Valley, Santa Cruz County, California, about four miles northwest of Watsonville, and three miles east, but not in sight of, the bay of Monterey. This valley is about three miles long and contains about two thousand acres of fertile, well watered land adapted to the culture of grain, fruit, berries, etc. The water is pure and soft, all coming from springs. The valley is well sheltered from coast wind and fog by a low range of hills.

"From the hill west of our house one can command a splendid view of the surrounding country. To the eastward lies the Conalitos Ranch, then Green Valley. Next beyond these lies the southern portion of the Santa Cruz mountains, upon whose rugged sides the grand redwoods, once monarchs of the mountains, have in many places almost entirely given way to the woodman's axe and are fast being replaced by orchard tree and vine. Even the sides of Loma Prieatas—the highest point of the range within our ken, are being desecrated by the irrepressible orchardist. Alas! poor bruin must depart from his native chaparral. In times gone by there were innumerable California lions or cougars, grizzly bears and rattlesnakes here. South of all this, reaching from mountains to sea, lies the renowned Pajaw Valley, celebrated for its excellent land, its lovely scenery, its apple orchards and its hop yards, its strawberries and its sugar beets, which until last year were crushed at the Watsonville Beet Sugar Factory, owned and operated by Claus Spreckles. Last year he had all shipped to his new factory, the largest in the world, near Salinas city. Also Pajaw Valley can boast of its beautiful tree-dotted town, Watsonville, a most thriving little city of some five thousand inhabitants. And last but not least, its splendid chain of five fresh water lakes, fed by subteranean mountain streams and drained by small streams into Pajaw river.

"On the eastern bank of the largest, College Lake, stands the Pajaw Valley Orphanage, which affords a home and tuition for some four hundred homeless boys. A large farm and orchard attached furnish a portion of their support and the state also appropriates money yearly for their maintenance. It is under the supervision of the German Franciscan Fathers."

IVEA B. CLARK, Watsonville, Cal.

Dear me! Rosa, I'm afraid you do not read my page carefully. We often have letters from Texas. Our Texas cousins are very kind to us; but your letter is just as welcome as if we had no others.

"Much has been said about other states, but I haven't seen a letter from Texas. This part of the state is black land, mostly prairie. In summer the prairies are covered with sweet flowers of all colors, with an abundance of wild roses. How many of you cousins can make artificial flowers? I can make both paper and cloth flowers, and I will tell you how to make a paper rose. Take a strip of tissue paper one and one half inches wide and about twenty-five inches long; fold up until one inch across, than scallop the top. Have your center fixed on a small wire, then take a hat pin and roll each side of the scallops; then press both thumbs together, that will make the scallop wrinkled, then fold around and around the wire, then take another strip of paper and fix as above, roll this strip on backwards; then take green paper and wrap your wire and let green extend up on the rose leaves. If you cousins will send me your name and address and a four cent stamp to pay postage I will send you a sample rose and bud, also leaves. I hope you will try to make the beautiful rose."

ROSA ROBERTS, Grayson, Texas.

Now let us shake hands with our Western cousin John Hartz, and join him in a visit to his home.

"Now, dear reader, let me take you to visit my home, which is in the south-eastern part of Iowa. Coming from the east we will first cross the Mississippi river on the great Rock Island bridge, which has cost our Government more than three million dollars. Then, going westward, we cross very fertile plains, green with corn, oats, wheat, barley, etc. After traveling about one hundred miles the conductor will be calling out 'Victor', which is my stopping place. The first thing to be seen of Victor is a large hotel, and a still larger saloon; but as all the saloons in our county were closed this spring there is no danger of getting to be a drunkard in Victor. But the carriage is waiting for us so we will drive to my home, which is about five miles south of the town.

"If you had come thirty years earlier you would not have found any cultivated land, for at that time this country was only a rolling prairie; but now there is hardly an acre of uncultivated land, and land now sells for about forty-eight dollars per acre. In the winter there are several feet of snow on the ground, but in the summer it is very warm and the roads are very smooth. The climate is healthy but it is not as mild as the eastern or most western states. But the people here are as well educated as those in the eastern states. The principal occupation of the people in this section is stock raising and grain growing. Corn is the grain most extensively raised; next come oats, wheat, rye, barley and potatoes. Fruit does very well here and timothy hay is often thrashed for seed. Horses, cattle, hogs, sheep and poultry is the stock which is mostly raised. I would like to take my cousins on a wild duck or geese hunt, but I am afraid our Auntie is getting impatient with me, so good-by for this time."

JOHN B. HARTZ, Victor, Iowa.

I have a letter from Dollie Simmons of Walker, Oregon, describing an Indian dance, but as I have lately published a very similar account I must content myself with thanking her for it and ask her to try us again with a different topic.

Here is a letter from a lonely little German cousin.

"As a new cousin in the COMFORT circle I hope you will accept this letter and give me a chance to get acquainted with the cousins. I live away out in the State of Washington on a farm in Lincoln county. We have fine scenery in view—mountains, rivers, waterfalls, lawns and forests. In the river bottom lands are fine orchards and on the hills great wheat fields. One ought to be happy here, but though I have my parents, my brothers and my music I have no sister and no girl friend, and sometimes I am lonely for want of one. After work is done girls want other girls to chat with. Folks tell me there are lots of girls in the eastern States. I would like to know and write to some of them. I am a German girl. Are any of the cousins German, I wonder?"

MATILDA JENNE,
Rocklyn, Washington.

I have a very well written letter from a little girl of fourteen years, who signs herself Viola Bagley. But, Viola dear, if you expect your letters to be published you must write only on *one side* of your paper.

Here is still another letter which reached me too late for July.

"Among all the people who have felt their hearts swell with patriotism as they have looked at the old Liberty Bell scarcely one in a thousand has any knowledge of its history beyond the bare fact that it was rung on July 4th, 1776, to let the waiting people know that the Declaration of Independence had been signed and we had become a free people.

"In 1751, when the State House being built in Philadelphia was nearing completion, the 'Representatives of the Province of Pennsylvania' met together and appointed Isaac Norris, Thomas Leech and Edward Warner a committee to secure a bell for the building. These men then authorized Robert Charles, the Colonial agent in London, to have a bell made which should cost about a hundred pounds sterling, should weigh about two thousand pounds, and have inscribed on one side the words 'By Order of the Assembly of the Province of Pennsylvania, for the State House in the City of Philadelphia, 1752,' and on the other was to be the quotation 'Proclaim liberty throughout all the land, to all the inhabitants thereof. Leviticus XXV. 10.'

"In August, 1752, the bell arrived and was hung in its place, but when tested, it cracked with the first stroke. An effort was made to send it back to London to be re-cast, but the only boat available was too small. After much discussion the firm of Passo Stow of Philadelphia, offered to re-cast it. The first trial resulted in failure, but the second was successful, and in June 1753, the bell was finally hung.

"In 1777, when the British were approaching Philadelphia, the bell was taken down and removed to Allentown to save it from the enemy. In 1781 it was hung in the tower of the State House where it remained until it cracked while being tolled to announce the death of the Chief Justice, John Marshall, on July 6th, 1835.

"After a time the clapper was removed from the bell and it was mounted on the original framework and placed in Independence Hall, where it now stands."

EVA GALLIARD, Girard, Penn.

We are glad to welcome Mabel Horton among us and we shall listen with interest to her account of Hiwassee College.

"Hiwassee College is situated in a picturesque



THE DOAK BUILDING.

valley lying between the Southern and Atlanta, Knoxville and Northern railroads, two miles from Madisonville. It was founded in 1849 by Rob't Doak and others, and a charter was obtained in 1850. At first the school was taught at Bat Creek camp-ground with the church for a school house and the camps used as dormitories for the young men, but soon after a nice brick house known as the Doak building was erected, and now six fine buildings grace the College grounds.

"Hiwassee College has long been known as a noted institution of learning, boys from perhaps every state in the Union having attended school there, and have left her halls well prepared to fight the battles of life, and have become prosperous, influential, and wealthy men.

Rev. J. H. Brunner D. D., who retired as President of this College not long ago, was said to be the oldest College President in Tennessee and perhaps the oldest in the United States.

"The school is still in a prosperous condition, and a grand time is expected when the celebration of the semi-centennial occurs. Many old students will no doubt come at that time to visit their "Alma Mater."

MABEL HORTON, Madisonville, Tenn.

This letter gives us a pleasant account of the objects usually seen by the visitor to New Orleans.

"I recently took a trip to the grand old city of New Orleans. As I passed up Canal street, the principal business street of the city, the first object to attract my attention was the monument to Henry Clay. The Esplanade car carried me past fine residences, and from the car window I also saw the United States Mint. This is a three storied building with an entrance somewhat resembling that of the White House at Washington. Audubon Park is one of the prettiest parks I have ever seen. The great live-oak which spreads its branches over the artificial lake, and the rustic bridge suspended across the water make a very picturesque scene.

Of the churches the most interesting are the Jesuit church with its brass altars and its statuary, and the St. Louis Cathedral. The Jackson Monument in Jackson Square, opposite this Cathedral, was erected in honor of Gen. Andrew Jackson, the hero of New Orleans. We visited Metairie cemetery. Among its most noted monuments and tombs is the Armory Northern Virginia Monument, which is most beautiful, standing high upon a mound of closely mown grass. Near by is a tomb built to resemble an Egyptian pyramid. St. Louis cemetery is one of the most unique in America, the vaults being made in the walls; thus the walls present the appearance of a huge cabinet having hundreds of drawers. In St. Roch's cemetery, at intervals along the walks leading up to the chapels, are small summer pavilions in which are the stations of the cross.

At the West End is a beautiful walk along the lake embowered in trees, and called the Lover's walk. The shrubbery puzzle is a hedged walk which makes numerous turns and finally ends in a small cave.

The Levee at New Orleans is the terminus for several steamship lines, and the loading of cotton there is one of the characteristic sights of the city. It was very odd to me to see the water running up from the levee to the canals, but this is on account of the levee being so much higher than the city."

JOSEPH A. DIEMER, Mobile, Alabama.

And now I must regretfully break up our session, for our allotted time and space are both at an end; so good by until September. AUNT MINERVA.

SPECIAL SALE.

For this summer only, we offer at a reduced price a quantity of elegant cloth bound books by such authors as Browning, Carlyle, Halevey, Bacon, Tennyson, Ruskin, Lamb and Arnold. These books are printed on good paper with clear type, and the best of ink. Are for library, school and home use being the best work of these writers. You cannot afford to be without these books at this unheard of low price. Hardly pays postage as each book weighs 12 ounces or over. If you send now we will send one only for 10c. and pay the postage; four for 32c. by express collect. If not satisfactory money refunded. Address, COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

The first socialist mayor in the United States was elected at Haverhill recently.

A POCKET LUXURY

Is a tortoise shell comb in a neat and fancy case, always handy and useful; good for men, women, school children and the soldiers. We will send one with our great catalogue of thousands of bargains for only six cents. Address, Comfort, Augusta, Maine.

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ANGELS WHISPER Beautiful Large Picture colored. Sells quickly at 25c. Sample 12c. 9 for $1.00. J. LEE, Omaha Bldg., Chicago.

ASTHMA Instant relief & positive cure. Sample mailed free to any sufferer. "Physician" Box 36, Augusta, Maine.

CHILD LOST for 18 years. Stolen from the cradle. She was told who and where parents lived by ZEMINDAR, Great Hindu Seer, who foretells correctly all Private Affairs, Health, Business. Send stamp for particulars. Box C,245, Saratoga, N.Y.

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If ruptured write to Dr. W. S. Rice, C. Main St., Adams, N. Y., and he will send free a trial of his wonderful method. Whether skeptical or not get this free method and try the remarkable invention that cures without pain, danger, operation or detention from work. Write to-day. Don't wait.

YOUR FUTURE FULLY REVEALED by Astrology. Success in Love, Business, Marriage, Domestic Affairs, etc., all correctly treated. My patrons are astonished and satisfied. My works are correct. To prove it, I will send you a personal typewritten trial horoscope of your life FREE. Send me your date of birth and 2 cts. for postage. Prof. J. H. Martin, Box 707, Austin, Ill.

A BIG OFFER 50c. MADE IN A MINUTE! If you will hang up in the P. O., or some public place, the two show bills that we send, we will give you a 50c. cert., and send it in advance with samples and bills. This will trouble you about one minute, and then if you want to work on a salary at $50 or $100 per month, let us know. We pay in advance. GIANT OXIE CO., 125 Willow St., Augusta, Me.

FLYING MACHINES

Will come next but at present we offer something entirely new in Balloons. There is nothing quite so fascinating to old or young as watching the airy flight of a Balloon, and a foreign inventor has just gotten a patent on a new idea in paper Balloons. They rise from a table in the house or ascend heavenward in the open air. They excite the greatest curiosity every where they are shown and thousands are now sold daily in Europe. "COMFORT'S" Foreign artist saw them in "London" and sent a large invoice across the Atlantic so we could be the first to advertise them in America. To first introduce, we are going to give away several thousand as we know we afterwards can sell more than a million of these torpedo Balloons. All we want is to get new three months' trial Subscription to "COMFORT" and if you send six cents for your own or a friend's subscription we will send you a package of ten Balloons Free Post Paid. You can have three or four in the air at once and derive more sport from them than anything you ever saw. Full directions furnished so children can easily work them and have heaps of fun. You make big profits if you want to exhibit or sell them. So send six cents early and get the agency. Don't wait but write and get your friends to write to-day.



Address COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.



WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



THE newest embroidered table linens are linen *exclusively*. They are worked with a linen floss, and are all white. The effect is especially good. Of course they launder perfectly, and the design seems a part of the fabric instead of an applied decoration, although it is heavily raised. With women who like rich effects without any appearance of ostentation, this style of embroidery is bound to prove a favorite. The designs are the same as those used in silk embroidery, with preference given to small and dainty patterns rather than broad effects. The linen used for the work is lustrous and rather heavy.

A novelty in collar-button boxes may easily be made from a discarded collar. Cut enough from the ends of the collar to leave it twelve and one-half inches long. Cover the collar with striped percale of a pattern suitable for a shirt waist. The work will be most readily and neatly done by means of a good paste. After the collar is covered, draw the ends together and catch with a few stitches at the bottom, lapping as much as it would be lapped in wearing. For the bottom of the box cut a round piece of pasteboard of the right size, cover it with the percale, and overhand the edge to the bottom edge of the collar. Cut a strip of cardboard not quite as wide as the depth of the collar and slip inside to form a foundation for the lid of the box to rest upon. Cut from paste board a lid which will just slip inside the collar when covered. Cover this with the percale, and with a sharp knife make a slit in the middle just large enough to push the top of a collar button through. The lid rests upon the cardboard inside the collar, and the top of the collar button will form a handle to lift it by. To complete the box, tie a narrow black ribbon around it to simulate a string tie, and make the bow where the corners of the collar lap.

Now that baby ribbon is used upon so many pieces of lingerie, and in various ways about the young girl's toilet, a case of baby ribbon makes a most acceptable addition to the dressing table.

The outside of the case may be of linen or silk as preferred. The silks in dainty Dresden designs or in the richer Persian patterns are especially pretty for the purpose. Make the case five and one-half inches wide and nine inches long, and line with a plain shade of silk to correspond or contrast well with the cover. Run three sides, turn, put in a sheet of wadding, and overhand the remaining side. Lay a piece of satin ribbon eight inches long and from one-half to three-fourths of an inch wide, across the inside of the case and catch it down to the lining and wadding at intervals of about an inch. At one end catch it again leaving a space only large enough to hold a tape needle. Now through the one-inch spaces draw bunches of baby ribbon, and place the tape needle in the narrow space.

Finish the case with a piece of plain ribbon of sufficient length to tie around the case when rolled or folded and to make a pretty bow. The baby ribbon inside the case may be of a variety of shades, or in a single color.

Comparatively few people are systematic with their correspondence, and anything which will prove an aid toward that end should be welcome.

The dainty little record book which I am going to describe would scarcely be needed by the friend whom I recently found writing a letter.

"I am answering a letter which just came in the mail," she said. "I always answer a letter as soon as it comes, within fifteen minutes if I can have the time then."

It certainly is easier to write a letter just after reading one from a friend, but I fear very few of us do it, and hence the value of the record book. This consists simply of one or two sheets of note paper ruled into three spaces extending up and down the page. The first space is broad and leaves room to write the name of the one from whom the letter is received. The second and third spaces are narrow, giving room only for a date. Over the broad space is printed in pretty lettering the one word "From;" over the second space the abbreviation, "Rec'd." and over the third, "Ans'd."



RECORD OF LETTERS.

If this is filled as letters come and go, one's correspondence will be systematically looked after, and the one who keeps such a record will be much more likely to answer half-forgotten letters when her remissness is thus brought to mind. The record is made attractive by means of the cover which is as unique as it is pretty, and because of this pretty cover the whole can be used as an inexpensive gift. To make the cover take a piece of water color paper, or other paper with a somewhat rough and artistic looking surface, and cut a folded piece which will be a little larger than the sheets of note paper which are to be fastened within it.

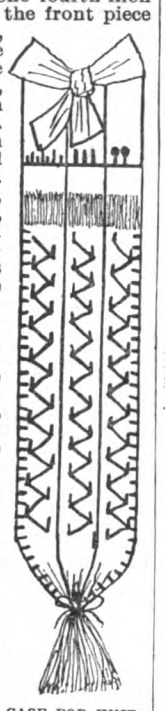
On the middle of the front of this cover draw a group of over-lapping envelopes with pen and ink. The top envelope should show the back, as though addressed, and the post-mark, from some letter received could be copied as exactly as possible. Paint a semblance to a stamp in the right hand upper corner, or if you cannot do this paste a cancelled stamp there. Address the envelope to the person for whom the record is intended. Around the cluster of envelopes a design may be drawn or painted. One which was given away at Christmas time had a wreath of holly with its red berries, but any other design could be used as well, or if one does not paint, the pen and ink work on the envelopes would be sufficient decoration. When the cover is finished two holes should be made through both cover and note paper at the back, and a pretty ribbon drawn through and tied.

A dainty little button bag which takes up the smallest possible amount of space in one's valise, and which is sure to prove of the greatest convenience, is made from a piece of ribbon three and three-fourths inches wide and twelve inches long.

Cut the ribbon in two and hem one end of each piece over whalebone cut just the length to reach across the ribbon. Lay the two pieces of ribbon together and overhand the two sides, leaving an opening upon one side three inches from the top, or unfinished end, one-half an inch long. Hem the upper end to form a narrow casing. Next run two seams across the ribbon, even with the top and bottom of the half-inch opening at the side, to form a narrow pocket. Cut a card of pasteboard to fit into this pocket and cover it with silk. This is to hold a few needles. At one end add a small loop of baby ribbon to draw it out by, and run baby ribbon in the casing at the top. The upper pocket, between the casing and the needle pocket, is for one or two spools of thread, or for cards of thread which have been wound from a greater number of spools. Below the needle pocket is the space for buttons. This section opens by pressing the two sides together at the bottom, thus causing the whalebone to spring apart. When released the pocket closes again securely.

The new ribbons which are striped across are especially pretty for such a case.

A case for your knitting needles is very convenient, as it will hold them when not in use, and when wanted you do not have to hunt in boxes and drawers for "those needles." To make the case use white and yellow dress braid. Cut four pieces of the white and two of the yellow, twelve inches long; sew two of white and one of yellow, having yellow in middle, over and over, leaving one and one-fourth inch on each end not sewed. For the front piece feather stitch, as in illustration, yellow floss on white, white floss on yellow braid; sew the three strips for back together, leaving one and one-fourth inches on bottom not sewed. At top of back make a hem across and slip in this hem small whalebone to keep straight. Ravel the top of front piece, turn fringe over onto outside, lay the two pieces together and button hole outside edge together with very short stitches a little way apart; gather the bottom where you stopped sewing the braids, ravel out all below and tie a narrow ribbon around it. Put enough cotton in bottom to fill; this keeps the needles from slipping through. Then cut of white cardboard a strip wide enough to slip in and so it will come just below the opening; this keeps it out in good shape; fasten a ring on top to hang by and over this place a yellow bow.



CASE FOR KNITTING NEEDLES.

One of our good friends, who has given us friendly advice before, tells us now how to shrink yarn before knitting it.

"Place the yarn in clean white cloth, fold and place in steamer, and steam until damp; be sure that water and everything used is free from dust. Take out and lay loosely on cloth to dry. This is especially nice for any yarn used for baby, as it will have to be washed so often, and it does not shrink and mat as it does when it is not shrunk before knitting."

She further says:

"In knitting the toe of stockings a good plan is to knit silk thread with the wool, beginning at the taking in of the toe; do the same with the heel and if for a child the part that comes over the knee, as it adds greatly to the strength of those parts. Knitting silk may be used, but sewing silk makes it less thick and is equally strong. Match the color or use black; it goes well with most yarns."

PLACES TO VISIT IN PARIS.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



ASIDE from the Exposition few cities can offer more attractions than the capital of France, and we would call attention to some facts concerning a few of the most interesting features.

The "Arc De Triomphe De L'Etoile" is the largest arch in existence, measuring one hundred and sixty feet in height, one hundred and forty-six feet in width and seventy-two in depth. It was begun by Napoleon I. and was finished by Louis Philippe.

The "Museum de Cluny" was built in 1490 as a Paris residence for the wealthy Benedictine monks. These abbots of Cluny seldom resided here so loaned their building to members of the royal family. Mary, widow of Louis XII. inhabited it after the death of her husband and her bed-chamber is still called "Chamber De La Reine Blanche" as it was customary for queens of France to wear white mourning. In 1625 nuns from Port Royal took possession of it. At one time it was owned by a troop of comedians. In revolutionary times it was national property. It was afterward purchased privately and finally became property of the government.

The Palace of the Luxembourg was built by Marie de Medicis after the model of a Florentine Palace. Part of this building the Senate now occupies and the rest is a museum of paintings and statuary second only to those exhibited in the Louvre.

The Louvre is the largest and most important building in Paris. Its origin is uncertain but it was probably erected about 1217, though no part of this building remains. Catherine de Medicis constructed a large part of the present building. A short distance from The Louvre is the Palais Royal. It was erected in 1136 by Richelieu and afterwards fell into possession of Anne of Austria, who occupied it with her two sons. It was partially burned in 1871. In the gardens surrounding the Palais during the summer, concerts are given daily. Adjoining the Louvre also is all that remains of the Palais Des Tuileries.

The "*Ecole Militaire*" is the scene of Captain Dreyfus' humiliation before he was taken to the Ile du Diable.

Colonne De Jiullet was erected in 1831 on the site of the Bastile. The largest market place in Paris is *Halles Centrales*, covering an area of twenty-two acres.

The Bourse is the Parisian's stock exchange. The *Catacombs*, formerly quarries, contain the remains of nearly four million human beings, whose bones form altars, crosses, etc.

The students part of the city known as the *Latin Quarter* is well worth visiting, where St. Michæl reigns as patron saint.

SELF HOME TREATMENT FOR LADIES.
I will send free, with full instructions, some of this simple preparation for the cure of Leucorrhœa, Ulceration, Displacement and all female diseases, to all ladies sending address. I have nothing to sell. Tell other sufferers of it—that is all I ask.
MRS. M. SUMMERS, Box 206, Notre Dame, Ind.

A Chance to Make Money.

I have berries, grapes and peaches a year old, fresh as when picked. I used the California Cold Process. Do not heat or seal the fruit, just put it up cold, keeps perfectly fresh, and costs almost nothing: can put up a bushel in ten minutes. Last year I sold directions to over 120 families in one week; any one will pay a dollar for directions when they see the beautiful samples of fruit. As there are many people poor like myself, I consider it my duty to give my experience to such and feel confident anyone can make one or two hundred dollars round home in a few days. I will mail sample of fruit and full directions to any of your readers for nineteen (19) two cent stamps, which is only the actual cost of the samples, postage, etc. Particulars free. MRS. M. BAIRD, 3453 Laclede Ave., St. Louis, Mo.

GIRLS, HOW'S THIS?

We give free a Beautiful Rolled Gold Puritan Rose Diamond Ring—Tiffany setting—for selling 20 five-cent packages Garfield Pure Pepsin Gum among friends. Catalog 200 other premiums free. Send us your name. We send gum at once. Garfield Gum Co., 71, Meadville, Pa.

OPIUM and **Liquor Habit** cured in **10** to **20** days. **No pay till cured.** Write **DR. J. L. STEPHENS CO., Dept. C1, Lebanon, Ohio.**



A $25.00 Watch in appearance. The handsomest genuine gold plated watch on the market. Double hunting case, **SOLID GOLD PATTERN** of engraving. Elegantly finished jeweled movement, stem wind and set and absolutely guaranteed for **5 YEARS**. Cut this out and send it to us with your name and address and we will send the watch to you by express for examination; you examine it at the express office and if as represented pay express agent our special introductory price $3.50 and it is yours. Only one watch to each customer at this price. Mention in your letter whether you want **GENT'S OR LADY'S SIZE** and order to-day as we will send out samples at this reduced price for 60 days only. We furnish this watch with Elgin 15 **JEWELED** works for $3.00 extra. Address **R. E. CHALMERS & CO. 352-356 Dearborn St. Chicago.**
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If Sick send a lock of your hair, name, age, sex and 4 cts. in stamps and I will diagnose your case FREE and tell you what will cure your ailments. Address **Dr. J. C. Batdorf, Dept. 15, Grand Rapids, Mich.**

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RIPANS TABULES
DOCTORS FIND
A Good Prescription for Mankind.

WANTED.—A case of bad health that R·I·P·A·N·S will not benefit. They banish pain and prolong life. One gives relief. 10 for 5 cents at drug stores. Ten samples and one thousand testimonials mailed to any address for 5 cents, forwarded to the Ripans Chemical Co., No. 10 Spruce St., New York.

A Hot Weather Comfort.
THE NEW
PETITE LAMP CHIMNEY STOVE.



IN USE ON THE CHIMNEY.

THIS is a very useful device (made of brass) for adjusting on the top of an ordinary lamp chimney, for cooking purposes. It is readily *adjustable to any chimney*. It will readily support any ordinary metal plate, or pan, or dipper, in which to do the boiling or cooking. For many purposes this Lamp Chimney Stove is *far superior* and a *thousand times more convenient* than an expensive oil or vapor stove. For the *Dining Room* in *Summer*, shops and offices, it is unsurpassed. For the *Sick Room* it is *indispensable*.

And Only Look at the Price,
10 cents each, carefully boxed, and postage paid. Or 20 *for a dollar*, which is just 5 cents each, and delivered *free*, either by mail or express, to agents. You only need sell *four* out of your 20, to get your money back. All you sell of the other *sixteen*, will be clear gain to you. You cannot do better than invest a dollar.

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This paper 3 months on trial and sample stove only 10 cents.

Club Offer. Send us a club of two yearly subscribers at 25c. each and we will give you two stoves as a premium.
SUNSHINE, Augusta, Maine.

$500 FREE TO BRIGHT PEOPLE

WEN SEARY	NOTICEDORA YAD	GIVGINSNAKTH YAD
WASHTONING'S DAYTHBRI	YULJ THOURF	SSTHRMCAI

Can you arrange these six different groups of letters into the names of six (6) well-known and popular holidays? If so you can share in the distribution of the above. We propose to give away **$500 in Gold** to those who enter this contest, send in a correct solution and comply with our one condition, between now and the first-mentioned holiday. **REMEMBER** we do not want one cent of your money when you answer this contest. In making the six names the letters can be used in their own groups and as many times as they appear in each individual group and no letter can be used which does not appear in its own group. After you have arranged the six groups and formed the six correct names, write them out plainly and **you will receive our reply by return mail. TRY AND WIN.** You are sure of at least a share of this **big cash prize**, as in case of a tie, it will be **equally divided** among the winners. **This is not a contest of luck or chance.** Brains and earnest effort will win, as we shall give away the $500 in Cash any way. We will notify you by return mail, and send you scores of estimonials from those who have received substantial and beautiful prizes in our former contests. We hope you will win and anyhow it costs you nothing to try. **Do Not Delay.**
Address: **WOOD PUBLISHING CO., Dept. 67, 256 Franklin St., BOSTON, MASS.**

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REMNANTS
FOR CRAZY PATCHWORK.

A Silken Shower from a Necktie Factory.



ART in needle work is on the advance. We know the ladies delight in odd pieces of silk and satin—"CRAZY QUILT" making is again VERY POPULAR. We are sure we have a bargain that all ladies will now delight in. Bright, handsome, odd-shaped, and pretty colored goods accumulate very fast at all NECKTIE FACTORIES; the styles were never so bright and pretty as they have been the past season and they are now burdened with remnants of many RICH GOODS. We have thousands of pieces of silk and satin on hand which we are going to give you a big trade on. People at a distance have hard times getting the right assortment to put into sofa-pillows, quilts, etc., and we can help you out now. We are going to dispose of this immense lot RIGHT OFF. Our packages contain from 99 to 168 pieces of the best quality assorted goods, and we want to get a lot introduced into every home; then you can order as you like for your friends, and MAKE MONEY doing our work and helping yourself also. Remember these pieces are carefully trimmed, and especially adapted to all sorts of fancy, art, and needle work. Many ladies sell tidies, fancy pillows, etc., at a great price made from these remnants. Order one sample lot now for only 25c. It would cost many dollars bought at a store. **Grand Offer:** If you order our great assorted lot AT ONCE, we will give you several rich, bright and beautiful **stamped satin pieces;** each piece contains nine square inches and being stamped **by hand** with a graceful design for embroidery, is a great bargain.

Five Skeins Embroidery Silks Free. *In order to work your stamped satin and other pieces we also send absolutely FREE, five skeins of elegant embroidery silk, all different bright colors. This silk is worth nearly the price we ask for the remnants; but we know if you ORDER ONE lot we will sell many in your locality, so make this liberal offer besides giving you a large and elegant piece of* **Plush** *containing 36 square inches.*

BEST WAY. We send ONE of the above complete assorted lots FREE to all who send 25 cents for 6 months' subscription to "COMFORT" the best Home Monthly now published, and in order to get you to advertise "COMFORT" and this big bargain to your friends and neighbors we will send **free** with each package our great book, **With Eight Full-Page Illustrations,** for ornamenting the seams of **Crazy Patchwork,** or for other ornamental work where Fancy Stitches are used it has no equal. It shows how pieces for patchwork may be put together to get the **best effect,** how to cover up seams with fancy stitches, **how to join edges, etc.**

The book illustrates over one hundred and fifty of these besides **directions** for taking **ART EMBROIDERY STITCHES,** comprising the **Outline and Kensington Stitch, Arrasene and Chenille Embroidery, Ribbon Work, Plush or Tufted Stitch, etc. It also tells how to do Kensington Painting.**

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COMFORT, Silk Dept. B, Augusta, Maine.



CONDUCTED BY AUNT SARAH.



BREAD being a necessity to all sorts and conditions of men, and the making of good bread being an accomplishment not so common among housewives as one would think—a few general hints on the art may be of considerable help to all those who wish to know how to make bread, and to feel that their method is a *reliable* one. There are so many people who can make good bread almost always, and yet once in a while, for apparently no reason under the sun, their bread will be a disgrace to them. The greatest difficulty, of course, is in its turning sour; except in hot weather, there is no excuse for sour bread; sometimes, when the weather is very warm, before one can get at it to knead and get it to rising, it will be well on into the forenoon, and then the bread will have a sour odor and flavor; for this reason it is well, in the very hot weather, to get up a little earlier in the morning and knead the bread and get it into the pans to rise, before breakfast, when the morning is still cool and the fire in the range has not made the temperature of the kitchen unbearable. No wonder the bread sours, and yet, bread we must have, and it is just at this critical time that we have to make it *oftener*, on account of its getting mouldy if kept too long.

The following recipe gives two loaves, of ordinary size.

WHEAT BREAD.

To two cups scalded milk or boiled water, add two tablespoons salt, and when lukewarm add one yeast cake which has been dissolved in half a cup of water, boiled and cooled. With a knife, cut and mix in enough flour, sifted, to make a stiff dough—usually about seven cups. Knead until the dough is elastic, then cover and set to rise in a temperature of 70 degrees. When the dough has doubled its bulk, cut down and knead slightly without removing from the dish. When again double its bulk, shape into two loaves and set to rise in buttered pans. When it has risen the third time, put into the oven and bake one hour.

RICE BREAD.

To two cups scalded milk or boiled water, add three-fourths of a cup of rice, cooked until tender and while still hot add two tablespoons butter; then proceed as in first recipe. Oatmeal may be used instead of the rice, if desired.

BROWN BREAD.

Sift together one cup each of corn meal, rye meal and entire wheat flour, one teaspoon salt and three teaspoons soda. Add three-fourths cup molasses and one pint sour milk. Steam in a covered mould for three and a half hours, being sure that the water comes up half way around the mould all the time.

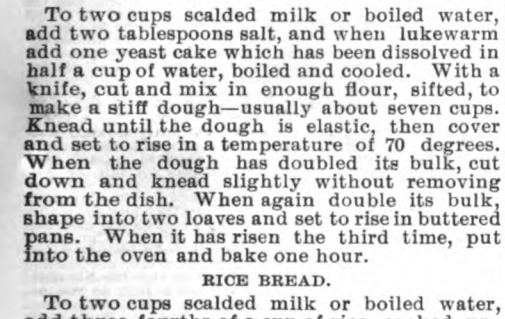
BAKING POWDER BISCUIT.

Sift four cups of flour two or three times, with one teaspoon salt, and, for each cup of flour, two level teaspoons baking-powder. Work into the flour one-third of a cup of butter, and when the mixture looks like meal, add gradually one pint of milk and mix well. When of a consistency to handle, turn out onto a floured board and roll into a sheet half an inch thick. Cut into rounds with a small biscuit cutter. Bake fifteen minutes.

To give rolls and bread a glossy brown crust, a short time before removing from the oven brush over the top of each loaf or roll with the beaten yolk of egg diluted with a little milk, or with a little sugar dissolved in milk.

This being the preserving season, some recipes a little out of the ordinary may be of interest to some of the good housewives who are always on the alert for new ideas.

Currants are always obtainable, and it often happens that one has a few currant bushes of her own from which to pick the delicious fruit, which is all the more interesting. Of course every one likes spiced fruit as a relish for meats,



FANCY SANDWICHES.

and we have a good recipe to offer for this—also one for bottled currants which may be used in the same way and are much easier to do, as they are put up cold.

SPICED CURRANTS.

For seven pounds of currants, melt four pounds of sugar in one pint vinegar; add the currants and one tablespoon each of ground cinnamon and cloves and one teaspoon of allspice and a little nutmeg (if you like the flavor of nutmeg). Boil two hours and bottle

For the bottled currants, mix together fine granulated sugar and currants which have been stemmed, in the proportion of one and one-fourth pounds of sugar to one pound of currants. Then mash the fruit thoroughly and put into glass jars, sealing up as other preserves. Roll in paper and set in a dark, cool place, and when it is served it has the flavor of fresh fruit.

PRESERVED RHUBARB.

To each pound of rhubarb allow three-fourths of a pound of sugar. Make a syrup with the sugar and enough water to keep from burning; add rhubarb and cook until tender, keeping the pieces as whole as possible. Skim out the rhubarb and boil the syrup until thick; reheat the rhubarb and put into jars.

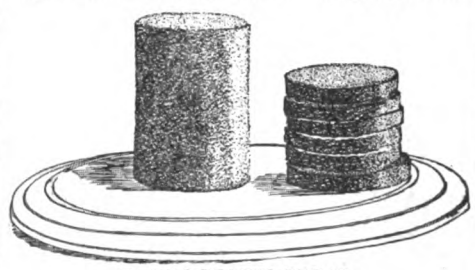
If one likes the rhubarb that is not quite so rich, the following recipe will be preferred: Cut the rhubarb the length of height of jars into which it is to be packed; after putting in the stalks, fill the cans with cold water and set into a boiler, putting covers onto cans loosely. Fill the boiler with cold water, and after it has been boiling an hour the rhubarb will be sufficiently cooked, when screw down the covers tightly.

To preserve strawberries whole, select the largest and most perfect berries. Mash the others and boil for fifteen minutes without water, then strain through a jelly bag. Allow one pound of sugar to each quart of strawberry juice. Make a syrup with a pint of water to each two pounds of sugar, and skim; pour in the juice of the berries and boil from five to ten minutes; pour the syrup into glass jars and then put in the whole berries, carefully, so as to keep them in perfect shape, putting in as many as the syrup will cover without crowding. When perfectly cold, cover with paper dipped in brandy.

CHILI SAUCE.

Remove the skins from a hundred ripe tomatoes; add twenty-four green peppers which have been finely chopped, eighteen large onions chopped fine, one pound brown sugar, nine large tablespoons salt, eighteen level teaspoons each of allspice, ginger and cloves, and one gallon vinegar; boil slowly, stirring often, for one hour. Seal in fruit jars.

If ginger is not liked, use only the cinnamon, allspice and cloves, and in the proportions

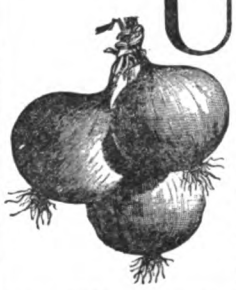


BOSTON BROWN BREAD.

liked; tastes differ, and many people prefer chili sauce to taste more strongly of the tomatoes than of the spices, and should therefore spice according to the individual taste.

More Fragrant Than the Rose.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



UNCLE Sam is the world's greatest producer of onion seed today, the annual product being something well-nigh fabulous. Nor is this very surprising when it is considered that onions are raised more extensively then any other vegetable, with the possible exception of cabbages. An onion goes into every soup and every stew; every "made dish" practically has onion in it. Furthermore, onions are very easily grown, and correspondingly cheap to buy; many of them are eaten raw by the poorer classes.

Great quantities of onion seed are exported to Europe from the United States, and it appears that this is the oldest of all seed-growing industries in America, dating back nearly two centuries and a half in the State of Connecticut. The bulk of the crop is gathered in California, though some onion seed is grown in Connecticut, Michigan and the neighborhood of Philadelphia. It is harvested by hand, with scythe or hand-knife, and is cleaned by threshing machines. Onion seed from Connecticut and Michigan is considered the best, and fetches the highest price in the market.



CENTURIES ago such an animal as a rat was positively unknown in Europe The Latin had no word for rat. But when the crusaders came back from the East, with them besides prisoners of war came the black rat, which was a very fierce little animal and very destructive.

During the time of Napoleon, Russia introduced with its armies the brown rat. This specie was even more warlike than the black one and they soon began to fight and the black rat was finally almost exterminated. And now such a thing as a black rat is seldom heard of.

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I have discovered a positive cure for all female diseases and the piles. It never fails to cure any of the various diseases peculiar to women, such as leucorrhœa, displacements, ulceration, granulation, etc., or the piles from any cause or in either sex. I will gladly mail a box of this wonderful medicine free to every sufferer. Mrs. C. B. MILLER, Box 106, Kokomo, Ind.

$75 Month and Expenses; no experience needed; position permanent; self-seller, PEASE MFG. CO., Stat'n 32, Cincinnati, O.



Send 25 cts. in stamps and we will send you the following:—1 Beautiful Gold Wire Bangle Ring with your initial on, same as cut (Send finger measurement.) Also the latest N. Y. craze, the Star Pendant Stick Pin, and two pieces of sheet music with elaborate title covers, The Governor's March (by E. S. Jolly, famous rag time composer), and Tell Her to Come to Me, by Chas. Graham, (composer of If the Waters Could Speak as they Flow). A wonderful offer. **Mills Supply Company, 45 West 29th St., New York City.**



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FOR SELLING 15 POUNDS OF OUR QUEEN BAKING POWDER.

Our inducements are enormous. To every purchaser of a pound can of our Queen Baking Powder, we give **FREE** a beautiful **Royal Blue Pitcher** and **6 Glasses** to match. To the lady who sells 15 pound cans Queen Baking Powder we will make a present of a handsome **50-piece Dinner Set**, full size tableware, handsomely decorated and gold traced. We also give **Bicycles, Sewing Machines, Mackintoshes, Dress Skirts, Furniture, Musical Instruments,** and hundreds of other valuable premiums for selling our groceries. We also give cash commission. Write us to-day and get our illustrated plans and premiums, it will pay you. No money required. We pay the freight and allow agents time to deliver goods before paying us for them.

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119 and 121 Locust Street, Dept. 57, ST. LOUIS, MO

WANTED. Good Agents to sell our preparations. Address Bay State Drug & Chemical Co., Boston, Mass.

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FREE WE GIVE YOU A WATCH FREE Address AM. MED. CO., STA. O, N. Y. CITY.

$5.00 CASH per 1000 paid to Distribute Circulars. Enclose 4 stamps. World Adv. Assc'n, Chicago.

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ADDRESS The National Supply Co., Detroit, Mich., for their liberal offer to Boys and Girls.

$25 mail course on Magnetic Healing, Hypnotism, &c. Free. Pay after learning. Empire College, St. Louis, Mo.

We furnish samples free to agents. F. S. Frost, Lubec, Me., sold $132.79, retail in 6 days. Write for Catalog, new goods, rapid sellers. RICHARDSON MFG. CO., C St., Bath, N. Y.

CONSTIPATION

the frequent cause of Appendicitis and many other serious ills should never be neglected. The objection to the usual cathartic remedies is their costive reaction which increases constipation instead of curing it. PARKER'S GINGER TONIC is the proper remedy. It acts on the Liver, and when used as directed, permanently removes the constipation. 50 cts. & $1.00 at all Druggists.

WONDER EGG BEATER & CREAM WHIP.

Will beat eggs in half a minute.
Will whip cream in three minutes.

Guaranteed simplest and most efficient egg beater made. We are the largest manufacturers of **Pure Aluminum, Scotch Granite and Tin Ware** in the world. **AGENTS,** write how to get **free** this and others of our best selling household novelties—Outfit worth $2.00—Express prepaid. Address Dept. X

HOUSEHOLD NOVELTY WORKS,
25 Randolph St., Chicago, Ill.,
or New York, N. Y.; Buffalo, N. Y.; St. Louis, Mo.; Kansas City, Mo.; Denver, Col.; Seattle, Wash.

This Co. is worth a Million Dollars and is reliable.—Ed.

HOME WORK 60 cents a sheet, copying. Send stamp. Wholesale Supply Co., South Bend, Ind.

10,000 ARE VERY ANXIOUS TO Many rich. Big lists with **GET MARRIED** pictures and addresses FREE. The PILOT, 6, Station E. Chicago.

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YOUR FUTURE LIFE COMPLETE in LOVE, MARRIAGE and BUSINESS, AS PREDICTED by ASTROLOGY. Send TIME of BIRTH, SEX & 10c. for Written Prediction. PROF. RENFREW, MEDFORD, MASS.

PILES Absolutely cured. Never to return. A Boon to Sufferers. Acts like Magic. Trial box MAILED FREE. Address, Dr. E. M. Botot, Box 978, Augusta, Me.

MONEY given for selling our toilet soaps, or 150 premiums free. Write today for handsome illustrated Catalog. **Great Northern Soap W'ks, 224 Lake St., Oak Park, Ill.**

TRIAL Treatment FREE **DRINK HABIT cured secretly.** Write for booklet on the **Drink Habit** and its **POSITIVE CURE.** Mrs. May Hawkins, L.U. 131, Grand Rapids, Mich.

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We have a great quantity of perfumery in cases which we wish to give to our friends without expense. It is most delicate and lasting and combines the various perfumes and fragrance of the flowers. Placed in a bureau drawer will impart delicious odor to all clothing, kerchiefs, etc. Sweeter than the mignonette. Send us four cents pay for shipping expenses and will send it with copy of our illustrated bargain book.

S. W. LANE & Co., Augusta, Maine.

$1000 IN GOLD FREE

FOR BRAINY PEOPLE

14	5	23	25	15	18	11				
23	1	19	8	9	14	7	20	15	14	
3	8	9	3	1	7	15				

FOR BRAINY PEOPLE

Each one of the above three lines of figures spells the name of a great city in the United States. This is a brand new puzzle and can be solved with a little study, as follows: There are twenty-six letters in the alphabet, and we have used figures in spelling the cities instead of letters. Letter A is number 1, B number 2, C number 3, etc., throughout the entire alphabet. **IF YOU CAN SPELL OUT THESE THREE CITIES YOU MAY SHARE IN THE DISTRIBUTION OF $1,000 WHICH WE ARE GIVING AWAY** for doing a little work for us. This you can do in less than one hour of your time. This and other most liberal offers are made to introduce one of the very best New York magazines into every home in the United States and Canada. **WE DO NOT WANT ONE CENT OF YOUR MONEY.** When you have made out the names of these three cities, write them plainly on a postal card and send it to us, and you will hear from us promptly **BY RETURN MAIL.** It may take an entire evening to solve the three names, but **STICK TO IT AND TRY TO GET YOUR SHARE OF THE $1,000.** A copy of this high-class **ONE DOLLAR MAGAZINE WILL BE SENT FREE** to everyone answering this advertisement. Do not delay. Send your answer in immediately. Address **ROBINSON PUBLISHING CO., 24 North William Street, New York City.**

The Victoria Stamping Outfit.

More Artistic Patterns for the Money than were ever Dreamed of.



It has been our special pleasure to select designs for this collection for our artistic friends. Illustration A shows a floral and ribbon design which can be used for almost anything the dainty worker has use for. The flowers are best executed in Kensington stitch, the ribbon may be either simple outline, outline filled in with feather, herring-bone or cat stitch, or, what is still more effective, the long and short stitch. Illustration B is a dainty little design for monograms or what-nots.

Note the sizes of the designs named below and the number of sheets of patterns in this outfit.

1 Very Handsome Centerpiece of Carnations, 17x17 inches.
1 Pretty Corner-piece of Pansies and Leaves, 6x6 inches.
1 Design of Strawberries and Leaves for Dolly, 5½x6½.
1 Design Orchid and Leaves for Scarf Corner, 6½x10.
1 Clover Design for Dolly.
1 Design for Baby's Bib, Rosebuds and word Baby, 4x4.
1 Design for Cheese Dolly, 3½x6.
1 Design for Souvenir Case with Motto, 5½x6.
1 Design for Shoe Bag, 5x10.
1 Design for Shaving Bag with Motto, 6x6.
4 Fruit Designs for Fruit Plate Doilies, 3½x3½.
1 Design for Carving Cloth, 11½x15½.
1 Design for Tumbler Dolly, 4x4.
1 Pretty Corner Design for Tea-cloth, Jewel Work, 9x9.
1 Design for Table Dolly, 8x8.
1 Design for Water Bottle Dolly, 6x6.
4 Designs for Butter Plate Doilies, 3½x3½.
1 Cut Work Doily Design, 5x5.
1 Very Pretty Design for Corner, Battenberg Work, 7x7.
1 Design for Border with Corner, 5x16.
1 Floral Corner Geranium, 6½x6½.
1 Design Water Lily for Dolly.
1 Floral Wreath for Monogram or Handkerchief Case, 5x5.
1 Design for Tray Cloth, 7x15.
1 Design for Centerpiece, Maidenhair Ferns, 9½x9½.
1 Rosebud Doily, 7½x7½.
1 Alphabet for Towels or Table Linen, 1½ inches high.
1 Design Centerpiece, Pansies, 10x10.
1 Pansy Doily, 6½x6½.
1 Alphabet for Handkerchiefs or Fine Linen, 1 inch high.
1 Border for Flannel Work, 3½ inches wide, and 29 other designs for embroidery of every description too numerous to mention here.



The patterns are made of linen bond paper, and consist of 9 sheets of patterns, each sheet 14x22 inches in size. As good as can be made.

With each outfit we send full instructions for doing the stamping, and one piece of EUREKA COMPOUND, enabling anyone to do permanent stamping, instantly, without heat or trouble. Your money back if you want it, but no one ever does.

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A wonderful and most ingenious device. It is easy to set, suited to any bait, can be used anywhere, nothing CAN ESCAPE UNTIL RELEASED. Every fish, muskrat, or squirrel which bites at the bait is **surely caught.** Perfectly safe for children, will not rust. **One bait will catch from 20 to 30 fish.** Will spring in any position; in short, it is a grand triumph over the unsafe and uncertain common fish-hook. Highly recommended by the Tribune, World, Press, and the Turf, Field and Farm. The Ohio Farmer says: "The Eagle Claw is a very ingenious article. The best device for catching fish and game we ever saw. Safe, sure and convenient." No. **1** is for all ordinary fishing, the ladies' favorite. No. **2** is for general use, both large and small fish and game. We have sold thousands, and they have all given splendid satisfaction.

PREMIUM OFFER. We will send a No. 1, Eagle Claw Hook and our splendid monthly paper six months on trial for only 30 cents; **or,** send us 50 cents and we will send the No. 12, Eagle Claw-hook and our paper on trial six months. Price, per dozen, by express, No. 1, $2.25; No. 2, $3.50.

Address SUNSHINE, Augusta, Maine.



TALKS WITH GIRLS.

CONDUCTED BY
COUSIN MARION.

This is the last summer month, my dears, and I am sure you are all glad of it and will welcome the cool weather of autumn even if it does make you a little older than you were. As between two discomforts I think that hot weather is personally more disagreeable than old age. You haven't tried both yet but you will have done so by and by and will find I am right. However, I talk too much and must get to work.

The first on the list is Cousin Mary K., of South Heart, N. D., who asks if a girl of fifteen should wear a shirt waist and I answer yes; and also yes as to her dancing if she does not go to dances regularly as a young lady.

Lena, Brazil, Ind.—Forms of address on different occasions of meeting cannot be given. Say what your feelings prompt you to say, even if it is not the most elegant form.

Ruth, Fremont, Neb.—It is not impolite to refuse a man's arm, if you do it politely. (2) Better let moles alone. (3) If you don't believe in dancing say so, politely.

Belle, Mahaffey, Pa.—Men should not smoke in the presence of ladies, except with their permission. (2) Sunshine, exercise and dieting are the best remedies for muddy complexions.

Gretchen, Aspinwall, Va.—Yes, you may be as ladylike in a hammock as in the parlor. (2) It is correct to ask the young man to walk home with you from church, if he is talking to you after the service. You may also ask him to go with you to the orchard for fruit. (3) 10.30 is a good hour for the young man to leave, and you can tell him that is your hour.

House Leak, Montgomery, Okla.—Be careful about the young man your parents object to and forget the one who doesn't care for you. (2) You may go with a young man at night if he is all right.

Unknown, Nashville, Tenn.—There is no way of getting what you want except to advertise for it, and not much chance then.

Miss F., Mahaffey, Pa.—It is proper to ask a young man to dine with you. Yes, the man may take you home from church without taking you there, but it is not customary to do so from "entertainments."

Blue Eyes, Burr Oak, Mo.—An engaged man is under almost as many obligations as if he were married.

Inquirer, Norway Lake, Minn.—You will have to wait a little while and find out whether the young man loves you or your sister. They don't always know themselves at first.

Laura, Stillwater, Ok.—Sleeping car berths are comfortable for one person only, unless the other is a child. Wear a wrapper, not a nightgown. The porter will look after your comfort.

Delia Dell, Muscatine, Ia.—You must ask your men friends to call. (2) Don't write to men you do not know. (3) You should have asked the young man why he did not keep his engagement. (4) Don't marry before you are twenty-five. (5) Make your home attractive to people and they will come to see you.

Maud, Reed, Va.—You ask me nineteen questions and how can I ever answer that many if the others are to be answered? Please begin with one.

Black and Blue, Glade Spring, Va.—Unless properly introduced you should not receive the young man. (2) Don't speak to any kind of men you do not know. (3) If people are talking about you and your cousin, he should stop his attentions for propriety's sake. (4) Don't write to the young man your parents object to.

E. H., Gloversville, N. Y.—Wash your hands in oatmeal or corn meal and wear undressed kid gloves at your work and at night, and your hands will be soft.

Flirt, Nardin, O. T.—You are not sufficiently considerate of the young man's feelings. (2) Electric shocks at the touching of hands are dangerous things. (3) The color of the eyes does not make happy marriages. (4) They say girls should not whistle, but I don't know why. (5) Winking the eye at any one is exceedingly vulgar.

Whip-poor-will, Alexandria, N. Y.—If the young man is in every way worthy marry him and take the chances on your parents' forgiveness. But be sure he is worthy.

Maude and Idell, Amelia, La.—Ask all the questions you please, but only one or two at a time.

Girlie, Cheshire, Mass.—Home is a good place to stay of evenings. Make it pleasant for people to meet you there. (2) The lady speaks first. (3) Chaperones are not necessary. Follow the custom of the place.

Majorilaine, Jackson, Mich.—You could wear almost any color becomingly, but blues I think would be best. (2) Thank you for the pleasant messages you send.

Kate, Staplehurst, Neb.—Have as little as possible to do with a jealous disposition. (2) Yes, you may ask for friendship hearts.

K. B., Oshkosh, Wis.—I have some very silly cousins, but you are quite the silliest, not to know that it is sarcasm for the silliest when I tell a cousin that it is customary for ladies to accept as their friends the men who have insulted them. Do you think you could see through a millstone if there was a hole in it?

Daisy, Prospect, Pa.—"We won't go home till morning" is the usual rule of country parties. (2) A gentleman may call on Sunday night or remain after church.

Tearful, Santa Barbara, Cal.—All the chances are that if you marry the young man who drinks and plays the races you will always regret it. My advice to you is to wait five years, and by no means to elope.

Addie Williams, Karlirk. Neb.—It is not advisable that Catholics and Protestants marry unless with a perfect understanding of all the requirements. As you are a Protestant and you are undecided between the two young men, you had better choose the one of your own religious belief, unless the other will agree to be married by a Protestant clergyman.

Scotty, San Diego, Cal.—Some very nice ladies drink beer in the presence of gentlemen, but it is better not to. (2) Give the minister your picture if he is serious in his intentions.

Blanche, Flat Rock, Ind.—Yes, you should marry if you love the man. If you are engaged to him kissing is permissible. (2) Engaged couples usually arrange the details you ask about to suit themselves.

E. A., Ash Grove, Mo.—The man writes first. (2) Ask your escort in if it is not later than ten o'clock. (3) Yes, a young man may take you home from an entertainment where he has met you for the first time, if you have no other company.

There dears, all your questions are answered either directly or indirectly, or where you asked such questions as I have answered over and over again, and I shall stop with all sorts of good wishes until we meet again in September. The Lord be with you.

COUSIN MARION.

GRUESOME MERCHANDISE.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



TRADE in human skeletons—surely a very grim and grisly species of merchandise—seems to be developing in new directions, and nowadays one may spend a great deal of money, if he be morbidly inclined, upon a variety of articles of "bigotry and virtue" made up from the osseous framework of his fellow man. Indeed, it is surprising how much imagination has been exercised in devising gruesome products of this character.

For $14 as advertised, one may buy a skull and cross-bones, "beautifully white," the top of the cranium being separate and lined with gold-leaf. But for only $2 more one can purchase a skull with luminous eyes, the sockets containing two miniature incandescent lamps. This is worked by an electric battery, the jaw being moved at will by concealed mechanism.

A "skeleton rider"—a human skeleton mounted astride of a rearing skeleton horse, on an oak pedestal—costs $325. The right hand of the rider bears a long lance, and "special attention is given to the correct anatomical posing of this instructive group." Cheaper, but still very desirable, is a Charlotte Corday, got up in a manner that would certainly have been most pleasing to the young lady if she had been able to see herself thus represented. It consists of a human skull shut behind the iron bars of a prison window of masonry, the skeleton hands clutching the bars as in the celebrated painting of the French heroine. It can be fastened to the wall and operated from a distance, the skull being made to nod at will, "Ghastly and effectively," the advertisement says, and presumably this does not overstate the fact. With a battery to work the mechanism, it costs only $50.

Such elaborate contrivances as these are used almost exclusively by secret societies. Another one of the kind is a Flying Mercury—a male skeleton, "best quality," poised on one foot and bearing a torch in the raised arm. No support is visible, the figure appearing as if in full flight. The torch is practical, and can be arranged to give light.

Under the head of "human bric-a-brac" are included a number of articles of every-day use composed of people's bones which have been dispensed with by their former owners. There are canes made in part from thigh-bones, umbrella-handles for the "upper third of the humerus," and smoking sets, likewise "entirely osteological." A novel style of piano lamp is a complete skeleton, kneeling, supporting a handsome brass or silver-gilt apparatus. Carving sets and writing sets are likewise composed of various parts of human framework, and the non-superstitious persons may even buy three dice of like material for only $4.

TO ACQUIRE GOOD HAIR.

Every man and woman should know how to acquire and retain a good head of hair. Many preparations for the cure of dandruff, falling hair and premature baldness are advertised but generally they have but a temporary effect. They are compounded without knowledge of the cause. These troubles all come from a parasite in the roots of the hair. The cure and removal of this pest is accomplished by Cranitonic Hair Food, which not only preserves the hair and restores it to a natural color but feeds the growth and by killing the parasitical disease renders the scalp and hair healthy. The result is a new growth of strong, lusty hair. A small cake of shampoo soap for this purpose with directions will be sent prepaid to anyone writing to Cranitonic Hair Food Co., 526 West Broadway, New York City, if you will say you saw the offer in COMFORT.

SUMMER TIME

brings warm weather and cool dresses for ladies and young women. This year low neck and short sleeves will be the fashion, also necklaces of bead and pearl. We are ready in advance to furnish our customers and subscribers with our new Exposition Necklace, more popular than the Cyrano chains were ever. We can send one, carefully packed, with a three months' subscription to COMFORT for 12c. Send soon and be in style.

Address, COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People

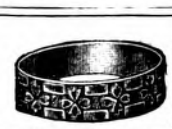


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Control whom you wish. Make others love and obey you. Cures diseases. Makes fun by the hour. New and instantaneous method. Quick as a flash. YOU can learn it. Success sure. Mammoth illustrated *LESSON* and full particulars *FREE!* Send address at once. Prof. L. A. Harraden, - JACKSON, MICH.

A GRAND
Household Outfit FREE.



Any one can learn to repair their tinware in fifteen minutes with our new and improved **Handy Soldering Set**. This new Set has full directions how to work it to the best advantage and you can save enough in one day by using this Set to keep one in **Boots and Shoes** for six months. Everything necessary to repair all kinds of **tinware** or used to put up canned fruits etc., comes with this set and we will send a Set to you **free**, all charges paid, if you enclose 25c. for one yearly subscription. Address **SUNSHINE, Augusta, Maine.**



SEND YOUR SIZE and 10 cents to defray mailing, etc. and we will send, postpaid, one beautiful **18K Gold Pl. Ring, 20 Fine Silk Remnants**, latest colors and designs, 1 yd. **Silk Ribbon, Handsome Pearl Top Scarf Pin**, Fancy Silvered Hair Pin, **2 Silvered Studs**, one fine **Gold Plated Beauty Pin, Inlaid Scarf Pin, Outfit of Games and Pictures** and our bargain list of Jewelry and fancy goods. Entire lot, postpaid, 10 cents. Address: **L. E. GOGGINS, Box 31, Roselle, N. J.**

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FREE Clairvoyance. If sick or ailing send now, name, age, sex, lock of hair and 2 stamps to DR. D. Hinkly, X10, Grand Rapids, Mich.

Get Married 8,000 Ladies VERY ANXIOUS TO MARRY. Many very beautiful and wealthy. Send 2 cts. for big list of ladies and gents, with full description and residence. Satisfaction guaranteed. UNION CORRESPONDING CLUB, Box 606, AUSTIN, ILLS.

How To Cure RUPTURE

DEAR READER:—It gives me much pleasure and satisfaction to write this little story, for it contains a new and wonderful method of curing rupture or hernia, and places before the afflicted words of hope and tidings of great joy.

It is not my intention to use medical words or terms for the purpose of confusing those who are not familiar with them. I am sure this would not be more valuable for using those technical terms which some use, for the sole purpose of making some ignorant one believe they possess extraordinary knowledge

I am not going to describe the many ways one may become ruptured. In the many years I have treated ruptures I have been told of more than a thousand different things that caused my patients' affliction. That you are ruptured, and that I can cure you, is the purpose for which this is written, and it will surely be a blessing, coming unawares to those who follow its teachings.

There are several kinds of rupture and they are named according to their location, the most common being Scrotal, Umbilical (navel) and Femoral. They are again divided into two classes as reducible or irreducible. The reducible is one that can be returned to its proper place within the abdomen. The irreducible is one that cannot be returned. The last named is caused by going without a truss, but mostly by using some poor and ill-constructed one.



RUPTURED.

There are many people who are ruptured and don't know it. They will have at times a slight pain in the lower part of the abdomen. If they do much lifting or straining work it grows worse and will at times get so bad they think they have an attack of colic. They will take some medicine for colic, lie down, and in many cases the pain will disappear, because whatever was out returns to its natural position. But in other cases the surgeon has to be called because the rupture has become strangulated. In some cases he succeeds in reducing it, in others a surgical operation is necessary, and with others after hours of agony death only gives relief.

The best time to attend to a rupture is when it is small, perhaps in some cases no larger than an acorn. Many who have small ruptures say, "It is only a small one, does not give me any trouble, no need to bother about that."

SMALL RUPTURE DANGEROUS Let me say right here that to neglect the small rupture is one of the most terrible mistakes possible, for every minute life is in danger of immediate and painful death by strangulation, for the opening is so small that it only allows one intestine to come down. It then requires great force or pressure to move the contents and in many cases it becomes constricted which is very apt to prove fatal or require a painful surgical operation at a great cost of time and money.

HAVE YOU IT CAN BE CURED Perhaps you have suffered for years with rupture. If so, I have no doubt but you have tried many trusses and methods of cure, expended many dollars and always the same result—failure. Perhaps you have been told by some one or it has been spoken in your presence and you believed it because you never took time to think about it, that "rupture could not be cured." Just think a minute of what is going on in your body. Two agencies at work, one constantly tearing you down, the other building you up or repairing, and as long as your vitality is good the repairing force keeps you in perfect health. Suppose you broke your arm, never had it set, or the proper appliance used to make it reunite and heal, the result would be that you would always have a broken arm. But you do have the proper attendance and care, and your arm in a short time is well again. So your rupture will heal if given the same chance—viz.: retain everything in a natural position the same as if there was no rupture and nature will do the rest. But the facts are:—you became ruptured, experienced very little or no pain, and you put off from day to day using the correct appliance needed to assist nature in its work. You needed a truss that would hold under every condition the strain from the injured part until it was healed, and strong enough to perform its work again. You need an appliance that HOLDS AND HEALS WHILE YOU WORK.

HOW COULD THIS HEAL The trusses that have been placed on afflicted ones in the past were constructed on the wrong principle and are now things of the past. In their day some were considered good and in some cases gave partial relief. They would hold one day and perhaps the next day would let the hernia out many times. In fact never two days alike because they were not self-adjusting. Some thought when the elastic was introduced, "here is a perfect truss at last," but they soon found out their mistake. They place all dependence on elastic webbing or belts which go around the body and they must be pulled or buckled tight enough so they are a torture, to bring the pads in position to bear on the rupture. Everyone knows that the sweat of the body will soon rot the elastic in the webbing, and so they must be continually stretching and giving out; never two days alike; consequently the intestines are being let out of their natural position, and never give the rupture a chance to heal. How can that kind of a truss cure a rupture? A rupture to be cured must be held securely in its natural position. It is probably a waste of time to tell you about old style trusses. You know it all. You know how you have suffered in warm weather from sweating and chafing. The belts and straps pulled up so tight over the galled parts that you would think, "I would rather die than suffer this any longer," and many, after repeated trials, unable to bear the torture any longer, are risking their lives and living in misery without a truss.

HOW TO CURE To effect a cure of hernia, all know that the hernial tumor or intestines must be held in an easy, comfortable and natural position, in fact to be in the same natural position that they would be in if there was no rupture. It has been my great fortune to have placed in my possession a new idea in the shape of what I may call a truss. Do not think it is one of those instruments of torture you have seen that has ropes, pulleys, elastics, etc. To compare mine with others would be like comparing the electric light with an old fashioned lamp. My appliance or truss stands out alone as a new idea, something far ahead of anything ever before placed upon a human being. A wonderful invention, holds with comfort everything in its proper, natural position, giving nature the chance to heal she has been waiting for. IT IS AS EASY TO WEAR AS A STOCKING, safe, simple, cleanly and durable.



CURED.

WILL LAST 100 YEARS IF NEEDED Cool and comfortable in warm weather, has no parts to chafe, does not absorb the foul odors of the body, always in place, always comfortable, always healing. It has no elastic webbing, no straps between the legs and no spring around the body. No matter what your position is, it never need changing.

YOU WORK WHILE IT HEALS No loss of time. Our appliance stands out alone, a new idea, PATENTED BY THE U.S. GOVERNMENT, and has been proven to be far in advance of any other appliance for the cure of rupture.

DOES IT DO THIS Does your truss hold you at all times? Is it comfortable, giving you a feeling of safety that you are all right? Is your rupture week by week growing smaller? If not, throw away that truss. Don't lose your health, perhaps your life, with such a contrivance. It is wrong in principle, wrong in construction, and may do a positive injury. In many cases the trusses are made and sold by persons who never saw a rupture. Belts, elastics, springs, and in fact everything that could be made, that some kind of a pad was fastened to, was put on to sufferers as a truss.

WHAT YOU WANT Is an appliance that holds everything in its natural position, SAFE, SURE, CLEANLY, HEALING, COMFORTABLE. So easy that you do not realize you are ruptured. You ask, "Is there such an appliance?" The answer is, "Yes! for I HAVE THAT APPLIANCE!" The inventor of this wonderful truss, the Rev. Jeremiah Hayden, who was chaplain of the 17th Maine Regiment, says:

THE PASTOR'S STORY "Finding myself ruptured, I sought advice of an elder brother who had the same trouble. He said, 'I have been ruptured for forty years, and have spent over $300 for trusses, and the one I have on now is the best one I ever had. It cost me $15 (it was an elastic truss) but it is breaking and I must get another.' On examination I found an elastic strap around him with every stitch of the webbing printed on his body, while the understrap that passed between his legs had chafed him so that he was red and sore. This led me to discover my truss, which is as EASY TO WEAR AS A STOCKING, and which ended all pain, danger and cost, and never needs repairing. I want to get it into the hands of my fellow-men who are suffering from this dangerous and painful infirmity, for I know it will be worth a hundred times its cost. I am broken down with kidney and heart disease, and I am in constant expectation of death. (82 years old.)' The thought has been constantly before me: an invention which has the power to relieve so much suffering should not be buried with me. As I am not able, I want you to take measures to introduce it to the world, and if this is accomplished, I shall feel that my life has been of value to sufferers. As I have reflected upon the miseries of millions without means of relief, and the dismal certainty of their growing worse, and considered that I have in my keeping a comfortable, sure fitting, never failing remedy, amply proven and tested in my own and other cases, and which, at a glance, common sense will appreciate, I feel that it would be a giant wrong to mankind to have this invention buried with me, for AS I VALUE MY HONOR IN THIS WORLD AND MY SOUL IN THE NEXT, I unhesitatingly declare that a failure in any instance is impossible." A truly most wonderful invention; a blessing to mankind. An article that will cure, because it will hold everything just right, in its natural position, which gives the rupture a chance to re-unite and heal.

CAN YOU DOUBT What more need be said than the minister's statement printed above? Does any one believe for a moment that Mr. Hayden would make a statement he did not believe true? Will you be benefited by my method? It costs so little and success is certain. Why will you drag out a miserable existence when the means of relief are at your command?

TERMS: NO CURE, NO PAY It is the perfect confidence I have in my method of cure that warrants me in adopting the above terms. Surely I have great faith in my way of treating rupture or I would never make the following proposition to you. It is a fair, honest offer that no other firm dare make, because they have not the goods to back it up. You will carefully fill up the Measure Blank with the answers to the questions asked thereon. We also ask you to sign our Special Order Blank. You will please send us those two blanks and the small sum stated on the Special Order Blank with your order. The reason I ask you to send this guarantee with the order is, there are so many people who are always writing for anything they can get for nothing. Many would write who are not ruptured. They know some one who is, and they want to get for nothing something they can sell the afflicted party for $10 or $15. There are others who have no gratitude in them; their object seems to be to get all they can for nothing and in no way ever think of repaying a favor or paying what rightfully belongs for them to pay. THIS I KNOW FROM ACTUAL EXPERIENCE. To keep such parties from troubling me, I have decided on the following plan: You are to send the two blanks before mentioned and the small amount stated thereon, the same to be held by us as a small guarantee of good faith. Upon receipt of same we at once send you by mail, all charges paid and safe delivery guaranteed, a truss, the same to be used by you. When cured you are to promptly send us $4.00 more and return our truss, which we only lend you. Many who get cured say they want to keep the truss. To all I will say that I will sell it at a fair price and charge according to the work done, and it will not be over $10. The terms I have offered are fair and liberal, no fair-minded person can say they are not, and I will not under any circumstances deviate from them.

Will you, after these plain and truthful statements, continue to suffer and risk your life by wearing an old style, imperfect truss? Dare you go without one knowing you are daily growing worse, and that within a short time you will become a total wreck? Dare you lay this aside before you give it a trial, which costs you nothing if you are not satisfied? Do you think it is a humbug? If we were frauds we would not ask such a small sum with the order; we would ask $5.00 or $10.00. A fraud never expects a second order, so they get all the first.

We can fit an infant, or a man or woman weighing 300 lbs. Fleshy ladies having navel ruptures will find it a great blessing. No hot bands around you. It is the only truss that can be worn by women and be clean and comfortable. Ruptured women who are pregnant can wear it and avoid many hours and days of misery. Don't put off ordering it. Do it today; tomorrow may be too late. What more need be said to convince you? We warrant A PERFECT FIT IN EVERY CASE.

SEE THE TESTIMONIALS Be sure to fill out the two blanks. The Sure-hold Truss fits all kinds of ruptures. In closing will say I have cured many who have had bad ruptures and can cure you if you will only let me. I can be the means of doing you much good, and hope to hear from you in the near future. If you wish the names of people in your own state who endorse our method, send postage and we will send you their names.

MY GUARANTEE The perfect confidence I have in my truss, and the knowledge I have from actual experience of its curing properties enables me to guarantee every truss. Your rupture may be small, or it may be one that only at times gives you little pain or trouble. Did you ever know a rupture that did not from month to month grow worse? Let me say right here that there is nothing so dangerous as a rupture. Nothing keeps a man or woman so near death, nothing causes so much trouble or the cause of so many surgical operations. The ways of Providence are wonderful. This advertisement may be one of its methods of warning, coming to you unawares, which if neglected means your death. Don't be deceived or have your mind changed by some one who has trusses for sale or who gets a commission by getting a truss for you. They will lose the money, so they will say, "Don't send for the Surehold Truss; it is so cheap it can't be good," and then they will offer to sell you something costing $5.00 and upwards, and say, "This is good because we ask a big price for it." The fact is they make so few sales that when they do find a customer they charge enough to keep themselves going until they get another victim to fleece. Just say to such people that the Surehold Truss is not sold, it is only loaned, and just as soon as you are cured I get the truss back and $4.00 more. I have thousands of patients, so it pays me. Ask others to let you have their goods on the same terms as I do, and I will warrant you will get some flimsy excuse.

A MAN CURED WHILE HE WORKED. DEAR SIR: I cannot find words to express my thanks. I tried many kinds and never one that would hold me. The Surehold holds me in all places and at all kinds of work, and I have never lost a day's time. I am cured entirely and have not had to wear a truss for many weeks. I have worked hard shoveling and wheeling coal; traveling up and down stairs at my work as watchman. Some nights I have put in more than a ton of coal. G. S. HOSLEY, Norwood, Mass. Granite St.

A WOMAN CURED AFTER 18 YEARS OF SUFFERING. AGE 61. DEAR SIR: I cannot say enough in favor of your truss. Please accept my most sincere thanks for the benefit I have received. I have not worn a truss for three months now. I had previously worn a truss day and night for over 18 years. I have worked hard all the fall drying fruit and doing the duties of the household. I heartily wish that every man, woman or child who has suffered as I did would be convinced that your truss will cure rupture. I wish you long life and prosperity and an eternal life in the future. Yours truly, MARTHA A. DAVIS, Diamond, Ark.

A BOY CURED MY BOY. SIR: Your truss has cured my boy when no other would, in the time you said it would. I am more than thankful to you. Every word you said was true. No need of any child suffering when they can be cured so easily.

MRS. MARY YARNELL, Middleton, Ohio.

☞ The above are only samples. We could print more testimonials than this paper could hold.

POSTMASTER MAYOR REFERENCE I have examined the letters from which these testimonials were taken and guarantee the same to be genuine. I was also shown a great many other testimonials which speak in the highest terms of the Surehold Truss. CHAS. B. WOODMAN. WESTBROOK, ME. This is to certify that I am personally acquainted with Mr. Alexander Speirs, and consider him responsible for any contracts he may make, and strictly reliable. KING S. RAYMOND, (Mayor). Any Bank, Mercantile Agency, Postmaster, Express Co., City Official, and the Publishers of this paper.

Men and women use the same measure blank.

SPECIAL ORDER BLANK.

ALEXANDER SPEIRS—DEAR SIR:—FIND ENCLOSED MY MEASURES, ALSO $1.40 AS A GUARANTEE, FOR ONE SINGLE SURE-HOLD TRUSS (SEND $2.50 FOR DOUBLE TRUSS) TO BE SENT BY MAIL, ALL CHARGES PREPAID. WHEN CURED OF MY RUPTURE I PROMISE TO PAY $4.00 MORE AND RETURN THE TRUSS YOU SEND ME.

NAME .....

STREET, OR P. O. BOX IF YOU HAVE ONE .....

POST OFFICE .....

COUNTY ..... STATE .....



MEASURE BLANK.

1. How many inches do you measure around the body on a line with the rupture?
2. Are you ruptured on right side, left side, both sides, or navel?
3. About how large is the rupture?
4. How near the scrotum is it?
5. Does it descend into the scrotum?
6. Can you reduce or return it easily?
7. What is your height?
8. What is your weight?
9. What is your occupation?
10. How long have you been ruptured?
11. Mark as near as possible on picture where your rupture is.

State you saw this ad. in COMFORT.

ALEX. SPEIRS, Westbrook, Maine.



CONDUCTED BY REGULUS.



THE sun in its progress through the Zodiac passes the first point of the sign Libra, crossing the celestial equator at about twelve minutes past seven o'clock in the morning of the 23rd of September, this year, Washington time. This constitutes what is known as the Autumnal Equinox.

At that moment the middle degree of Libra will be on the eastern horizon and the 19th degree of Cancer will be culminating. The sun, moon and Mercury will be above the horizon in the 12th house: Jupiter and Herschel will be in the 2d house, Saturn in the 3rd opposed to Neptune in the 9th, and Mars and Venus will be in the 10th. Venus being ruler of the ascending sign Libra, is ruler of the scheme. She is in the 10th house in sextile with the Ascendant. The indications of the figure are in the main good, though the continued prominence of Mars, the god of war, now in the 10th house, renews the promise of martial activity not as conducive to peace and harmony as could be wished. The warlike spirit is dominant and if it does not produce actual conflict of arms involving our nation it will cause more then usual lawlessness and violence of man to man. The great planetary bodies being inimically disposed with Neptune in the 9th house or the house of Religion, is indicative of great disturbances among religious sects or denominations. Neptune and Saturn that have been moving in opposition for many months while Jupiter and Herschel have been so closely conjoined, have excited the religious mind of the world. Much schism and discord have been created in established churches; new theories have been advanced, new doctrines born, unusual antagonism excited between religious sects, arousing the fanatical elements of religion in the world, which in the past has nearly always been attended with bloodshed and massacre. The Lunation or new moon which forms in the afternoon of the day of this Autumnal Equinox falls in close square with Saturn and Neptune and emphasizes the indications that this year 1900 will be a momentous epoch in the religious history of the world.

Mars so actively placed in the figures for both the Equinox and Lunation, for our own country, is a promise that our nation will not be exempt from tasting some of the mischievous effects of these planetary combinations. Our ruling authorities will have many knotty problems to solve, and cares of State will rest heavy upon their shoulders. Mars will keep up a state of excitement in our political world and we may reasonably look for some disorderly outbreaks of a political character, particularly in our southern localities. Mars being in the 10th cautions us also to have care of bad fevers and eruptive diseases in the south.

CELESTIAL CALENDAR FOR SEPTEMBER, 1900.

SEPTEMBER. 1—Saturday. The noon hours are the best ones in this day for transaction of general business and especially for dealings with banks and other monied institutions, also for moderate purchases of merchandise for trade or use; the morning is not as favorable as the later hours and correspondence and matters of account are likely to give annoyances; don't take the morning for contract making pertaining to literary undertakings, and letter writing is best deferred until noontime. The latter hours of the day are decidedly adverse for any important venture, being likely to bring disappointment from any matter then begun. The day is not fortunate as a birthday anniversary, prompting great care and watchfulness of both health and circumstances for several months to come; especially is this true for persons born about the 1st days of March, June, September, or December of past years. The time for such persons is quite likely to bring realization of disappointment from earlier ventures and to baffle and defeat progress of matters in hand. Ladies, so born, are likely to be in the midst of domestic or family infelicities; and if married to be experiencing conjugal dissensions, sadness or bereavement in the marital relations or through male relatives; influences tend to cause discord among lovers having such birthdays if they do not really rupture engagements of ladies so born who have not yet assumed the matrimonial yoke.

2—Sunday. A very favorable Sabbath day encouraging lofty sentiment, sober contemplation and reflection and effective religious discourse.

3—Monday. Give preference to the early hours for the most important moves but as the noon is past do not expect much progress in thy several pursuits; have no bargains in houses or lands, nor be concerned with building or excavating; use the late evening and night hours for protracted mental efforts and conducting literary work of consequence.

4—Tuesday. Begin early and crowd all thine affairs to the utmost; make application for favor or advantage from public men, large corporations and all persons in authority; as the evening draws nigh let more than usual care be had for avoidance of bad fires, especially in business localities; thieves will be unusually active.

5—Wednesday. This day is poor for the literary and scientific pursuits as well as for artistic matters, music, painting, and trade in decorative wares; embarrassments are likely to come to editors, mathematicians, civil engineers, surveyors, lawyers and judges especially if born about the 23rd of February, 29th of May, or 25th of August, of past years.

6—Thursday. Begin the day early and urge all undertakings of a scientific, literary or monetary nature and press all general business until the late afternoon; seek favor from principal officers of large corporations, government officials, and bankers during the middle hours of the day.

7—Friday. Use this day fully for buying or selling real estate or for having dealings with those engaged in the laborious occupations; deal in such commodities as coal, wood, lumber, agricultural products, lead and metalic ores; do not have any business transaction concerning patents, patented goods, copyrights or trademarks.

8—Saturday. Let speculators remain quiet during this day if they wish to avoid entanglements and losses, and very important commercial transactions are best deferred a few hours; make no contracts and be very careful in the use of the pen; literary efforts are likely to be laborious and prove very unsatisfactory. The intellectual classes are in general under a ban for a few days and enterprises of such character now begun are not likely to be successful or profitable.

9—Sunday. A very fair Sabbath day until the evening, especially conducive to mental activity and voluble and aggressive utterances.

10—Monday. Improve the early morning hours for thy transactions in the fine arts and dealings in artistic and decorative goods; use the forenoon for dealings with public officers or managing authorities or superintendents in great corporations or upon large public works; solicit favor from railway officials and persons of prominence noted for eccentricity of conduct or habit. A word of caution is here noted for persons born about the 5th of January, 6th of June, 8th of July, or 6th of December, of past years, as such persons are just now passing some troublesome and exciting conditions; let them have care of getting in the way of harm from machinery, fire or vicious animals; they should be slow to anger and very deliberate in judgment and action and keep out of controversy and dispute to the best of their ability.

11—Tuesday. A fractious morning inviting patience and cautioning against haste or excitement of mind; have no surgical operation performed; be prudent in diet, avoiding stimulants and intoxicants; have no transactions about drugs, chemicals, fire-arms, metals or machinery. Use the afternoon for real estate dealings and attending to plumbing, excavation, building and repairing houses.

12—Wednesday. The middle hours are the best for most matters, though the day has but little to recommend it; literary and artistic matters are adversely affected in the forenoon; avoid the aged in the evening.

13—Thursday. One of the best days of the month; urge all correspondence and literary matters generally; sign writings of all kinds; deal in metals, machinery, cattle, chemicals and drugs and press all the mechanical trades and inventions; scientific and literary men are favored greatly and the nice avocations will be successful; dealers in household goods and artistic manufactured wares are fortunately influenced and if their individual nativities likewise promise advantage they should enter upon their principal ventures in life.

14—Friday. Look out for the pennies on this day, as conditions tend to wasteful expenditures and conduce in losses; urge the musical and artistic engagements and employ taste in all directions.

15—Saturday. Conflicting conditions prevail on this day; give no offence to thy superior or employer nor seek advantage from persons in authority; do not begin any great commercial or literary undertaking.

16—Sunday. Indifferent and passive; a good day for complete rest.

17—Monday. Beware of very flattering promises in the schemes or enterprises presenting themselves on this day; watch the finances and be not extravagant in expenditures.

18—Tuesday. Due caution being had against rashness of action or judgment, let all the energies be put forth for pursuit of business; the day is a peculiarly energetic and vigorous one and should be fully improved.

19—Wednesday. Let the forenoon be specially improved for the pursuit of all general business, but particularly all the elegant occupations and the fine arts; deal in musical merchandise, dramatic appurtenances, dress goods, jewelry, etc.; the afternoon is less commended.

20—Thursday. This day encourages association with the aged and the active pursuit of all general business, but preferences may be given to dealings in real estate, boots and shoes, dyes, wool, lead, coal, lumber, and all classes of building material.

21—Friday. Avoid money speculations at this time and invest not thy means in goods for trade; keep the purse strings securely drawn and be watchful against needless expenditures.

22—Saturday. Avoid thy landlord on this day; nor have any dealings with contractors, miners, farmers and persons engaged in the dirty avocations. Engage not in any important matter; no permanent advantage will result from undertakings commenced this day. If this is the anniversary of thy birthday or if born the 20th of March, 21st of June, or 22d of December, of past years, thou shouldst not be surprised that more than usual disappointment or tribulations come in thine affairs at about this time. Such persons should be temperate in habit and circumspect in all business transactions; let them particularly avoid the use of stimulants, too free living, indulgence in follies or needless expenditures; cramp and other stomach troubles are to be guarded against; such persons engaged in business should see to it that they give no cause for business ruptures, and doing the best they can, be content even though prosperity be not so great. They should not now begin any new or important undertaking if they would have it succeed or benefit themselves.

23—Sunday. Not particularly promising for a Sabbath day; though the first half of the day is noted for its increased activity and vigor; avoid the aged in the afternoon.

24—Monday. A bright and cheering day which REGULUS commends to his friends for the beginning of any important ventures; seek money accommodations and speculate if thy nativity likewise favor in this respect; literary affairs are prospered and the elegant pursuits are aided; travel, remove, and crowd all undertakings.

25—Tuesday. Do not speculate or loan thy money or credit; those subject to apoplectic troubles should have care at this time.

26—Wednesday. Be master of thy temper in the morning hours nor have transactions with persons in the mechanical callings or who pursue their avocations by use of firearms, fire or sharp instruments; the day is a vigorous one and may be fully employed in every honorable pursuit.

27—Thursday. Do not choose this for thy wedding day or for courtship; engage in no pursuit of pleasure except in thine own house; art and music meet embarrassment to-day; seek no redress for grievances from public officials or persons in authority.

28—Friday. Give preference on this day to the transaction of business with dealers in hardware, cutlery, metals, glassware, brass and iron work, chemicals and electrical apparatus, also with persons in the ingenious and mechanical trades.

29—Saturday. Conditions are somewhat conflicting though in general the day is a good one for all honorable pursuits; beware of usurers and avoid dealings with public men or government officials.

30—Sunday. A superior day for improvement of the mind and proper appreciation of the merits of artistic work and the elegant in literature; the evening is less propitious and will give disappointments and disagreeable experiences with aged persons.

$25,000 GUESSING CONTEST.

Open to All. 1000 Free Prizes. Brains Win.

THE COLUMBIAN We want to get the names of 500,000 people to whom we can send sample copies of our interesting, illustrated family and story magazine, THE COLUMBIAN. We are confident that at least half of them, 250,000, will be so interested in its stories, special articles, jokes, pictures, etc., that they will become **Regular Readers.** The only way we can get these 500,000 names is to advertise, and when the papers are so full of advertisements of all kinds, we know that to attract attention, we must make some especially attractive and startling announcement. So we offer you a chance to win the $25,000, which will be divided into 1,000 prizes, as shown below, and paid to those who make the best guesses at the population of the United States, as shown by the **Official Government Census Figures.**

FULL $25,000 ALREADY IN THE BANK.

This money will positively be paid. You may be sure of that. In order that you may have no fear on that point, the entire sum of $25,000 has been deposited in the bank by the Press Publishing Co., for the express purpose of paying these prizes, and will be **used for no other purpose.** $25,000 is a big sum, but we can well afford to pay every cent it costs us if half the people who enter this contest become regular readers of our magazine, THE COLUMBIAN, and we expect at least that many.

REMEMBER: You can enter the contest whether you subscribe to our magazine or not. Every one who reads this has a chance to win the magnificent **FIRST PRIZE OF $15,000.** If you miss that you may get the **SECOND PRIZE OF $5,000;** or the **THIRD OF $1,000,** or some one of the **997** other **CASH PRIZES** which make up the grand total of $25,000 to be paid the winners. We know this great offer will make people talk about our magazine.

The $25,000 will be divided as follows:

To the Best Guess...	$15,000	To the 7th....	100	To the 14th	35	To next 180.....	900
To the 2nd.....	5,000	To the 8th.....	90	To the 15th	30	To next 100.....	400
To the 3rd.....	1,000	To the 9th.....	80	To the 16th	25	To next 100.....	250
To the 4th.....	500	To the 10th	75	To the 17th	20	To next 200.....	400
To the 5th.....	300	To the 11th	60	To the 18th	15	To next 400.....	400
To the 6th.....	200	To the 12th	50	To the 19th	15	Total. 1,000 prizes,	$25,000
		To the 13th	40	To the 20th	15		

SPECIAL NOTICE. It may help you to know that the official census figures for the last five decades have been: 1850, 23,191,876; 1860, 31,443,321; 1870, 38,558,371; 1880, 50,155,783: 1890, 62,622,250. DO NOT include in your guess the population of Hawaii, Guam, Porto Rico, the Philippines or Cuba. In case of a tie for any prize, it will be equally divided.

DO NOT SEND US ANY MONEY WITH YOUR GUESS

OPEN TO ALL. This contest is **open to every person** who will just send us their name and address and their guess of what the population will be as shown by the **official government returns** of the census of 1900, and comply with our one simple condition as we will write you by return mail. You know that the government takes this census every ten years. This contest will close one month before the official announcement is made, which will not be before November, so you must send in your guess at once, and the **winners of these prizes** amounting to **$25,000** will be announced as soon as possible after that date. **You do not have to pay us a cent** of your money to enter this contest. **There is no possibility of deception or fraud** in this contest as every one will know just what their guess was and will also know just what the official figures will be. Lists of the winners will also be printed in the papers with the guesses they made so that every one **can see for themselves** just what persons and what guesses **win the money. Try your luck!** Think what success means! **A fortune!** Address:—

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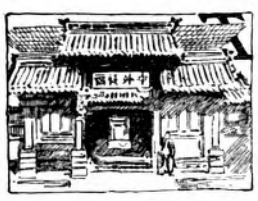
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What Are the Chinese Boxers?

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



CHINESE FOREIGN OFFICE.

HE above question is asked on all sides now that the name is so frequently in public print; and while there is a general idea that these are Chinese rebels, very few people can really tell what is meant by the name and the origin of this most formidable organization which has caused the present fanatical uprising against all Christian people, and is leading to an unprecedented massacre of white people, and which seems to be the beginning of a general war that will bring about the final dismemberment of the Chinese Empire.

The present uprising is a repetition of the many bloody insurrections which have taken place from time to time in the Chinese Empire. The celestial empire is a centralized government, and having to rule over a population of four hundred million people should be very strong; but on the contrary has always been weak. It is this fact which from time immemorial has caused these frequent uprisings and especially uprisings brought about by secret organizations such as the Boxers. The reason for the strength of the present movement is that it receives the tacit encouragement of the Dowager Empress, who is really at the head of the Chinese government.

The conservative spirit of China has, until recently, prevented the building of railroads, and there were only five hundred miles in operation last year; so that the entire carriage of merchandise in this vast empire, the central part of which is equal to half the United States in territory, was done by water ways and the labor of coolies. Tens of thousands of junks and other Chinese boats of light draught distribute foreign and domestic commerce through the water ways of the empire. At the highest points of navigation these in turn are taken by coolies and either carried in packages slung at two ends of a bamboo pole, or by the Chinese wheelbarrow, and carried still further to the interior. In the same manner all goods for foreign export are brought to the sea-coast.



LI HUNG CHANG.

The Chinese government has granted, since its first American concession, very many concessions and rights throughout the empire to different favored nations. While keeping strictly to themselves, they allow territory outside of cities upon which the foreigners build their factories, houses, etc. The whole city of Hong Kong is an English concession, and is the great shipping point of English goods. Outside of Pekin, and close to the great wall of China are the concessions on which are built foreign houses of the legations. The water ways and roads, of which we have spoken, are infested with Chinese pirates and banditti, who swoop down upon inoffensive merchantmen and kill and plunder them and then hide until the affair is blown over. This system, while condemned by the government itself, is winked at by local officials who generally are supposed to reap a portion of the spoils. It is not a dangerous undertaking, therefore, for any set or class of these robbers to band themselves together for any definite purpose, and as communication is very slow in the empire, the doings of any local company or organization, especially where in collusion with the local authorities, would be a long time in reaching the capital. In previous years there have existed in China many organizations, known as the Triads and the Teente Brotherhoods, The Heaven and Earth Society, The Great Dragon Society, The Sect of the Water Lily, The Flood Family, The Company of the Queen of Heaven, The Society of Heaven, Earth and Man, The Society of Tea, and numerous other organizations all directed against either local or general government, or more often against the incursions of foreigners and the concessions granted them by the Chinese government. In some cases these societies have grown to tremendous proportions and have nearly succeeded in their attempts to usurp the general government. The most successful among these was the Triad Society, which was formed to destroy the Tartar influence and very nearly overthrew the entire empire.

The nearest approach that we have to such organizations in our own country would be such bodies as the Free Masons or Odd Fellows; and the Boxers are typical of the most successful of the Chinese secret organizations. They are divided into lodges and have common signs and passwords known only to themselves; have certain methods of locating each other, and recognize peculiar methods of putting dishes and food upon the tables; of wearing garments and saluting passers by. They hold their meetings generally in the dead of night, and in secluded and hidden places; and one of their customs at each meeting is to draw blood from their bodies, mix it with water and drink to each other and pledge vengeance against their enemies. The flag which has been adopted by this body bears the Chinese words meaning "Up with the Ch'ing Dynasty and down with the Foreigner."

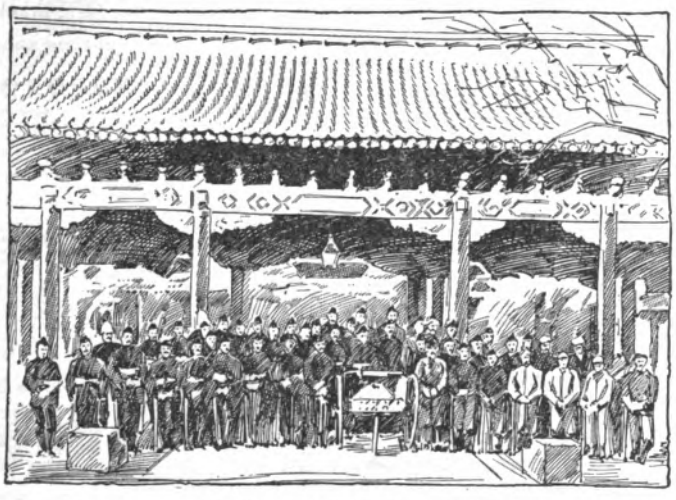
They are known in their own country as The Big Sword Society and were organized in large numbers in the Shantung Province, but have recently spread rapidly; and from the present reports in newspapers it would be inferred that the organization is now very general throughout the Flowery Kingdom.

The Chinese government could undoubtedly stamp out such a movement, as it has done in former times; but the great game of politics enters into the present movement to a greater degree than has ever appeared in any movement against foreigners. The Empress desires to restore the ancient forms and prestige of the throne and to expel all foreigners; but she realizes the great danger that there is in attempting to stop the Russian movement on the North. She dares not fight with that country, and yet knows that with the protection of Russia she can defy Germany, England and France on the coast line. The Boxers are especially bitter against the foreign missionaries of both the Catholic and Protestant churches, and they are encouraged by the Buddhists and their priests. The foreigner, viewed from the Chinese standpoint, is nothing but a barbarian and incapable of entering into his ideas of civilization. Every encouragement is given throughout the entire empire to increase the hatred of all foreigners, and this has been going on for years until the Chinese population is a seething mass of hatred and desire for vengeance.

The Boxers have numerous superstitions and one in connection with the drinking of each other's blood is that they become immortal, which they prove by hacking themselves with swords to show that they have no pain. It is generally supposed in European countries that the Chinese are poor soldiers, and such is the fact, as they would generally rather run than fight; but this is partly accounted for from the fact that they have no patriotism or desire to die for their own country. They are far, however, from being cowards; and while the ordinary soldier has no ambition or desire to defend his country, the Boxer is a fanatic who believes himself appointed to restore ancient China and to exterminate the western barbarism. Aroused in this way, the Chinese are capable of wonderful endurance and fortitude, and seem to have absolutely no fear of death or personal injury. While we might not fear the Chinese soldier, the Boxer, believing in his own immortality and that his is a heaven-sent mission, becomes a foe to fear.

The great dependence of the foreigners is on Li Hung Chang, who it will be remembered, visited this country a few years ago. He is a man of tremendous strength, bodily and mentally. Although nearly eighty years old, he stands over six feet tall, and is mentally and physically as vigorous as ever. He has been the leader of the progressive party in China and in recent years has not stood well with the Empress Dowager, whose plans he often opposed. It is hoped through his instrumentality that peace will be brought about. He has made a wonderful record in his own country and especially in its relations with foreign powers, and through his efforts peace may be restored to the empire. Nearly the last official act that he performed while he was in power before being deposed a few years ago, was the abolishing of the greatest organization in China and the forerunner of the present Boxers.

The barbaric slaughter of the German minister to China and the detention of all foreigners in Pekin surrounded by a fanatical horde of Boxers, whose forces were alternated by the imperial soldiery caused the leading of relief columns composed of soldiers and sailors from all the European countries to go to their relief. The story of the fighting and failures has already appeared in the newspapers, and is daily changing. At the time this article was written, the last news that had been heard was that the forces were besieged in the English legation at Pekin, a picture of which is shown in our illustration. At the same time the magnificent battleship Oregon, which had been sent to the relief of Americans, has just been successfully floated from a rock upon which she struck, and saved from what was apparently a total loss. It was in front of the Chinese foreign office that the fanatics bore down the German ambassador and his servants and literally hacked them to pieces.



THE BRITISH LEGATION AT PEKIN.

Many will ask why the name Boxers is given to this society. The exact reason cannot be told, but is probably associated with the idea that one of the names of the society is Manhood, Friendship and Fists. This is one of their most popular names, and undoubtedly from the last word was derived the general appellation by which they are known.

Our illustrations are of the principal scenes in the present uprising. The foreign office of the Chinese, shown in the initial, is reported destroyed. In front of this the German Ambassador, Baron C. August von Ketteler, was brutally hacked to pieces with his suite. In the British legation, shown in the other picture, the remaining foreigners were besieged and kept up their desperate fight against the hordes of fanatical Chinese murderers for a number of days.

Students of political and foreign questions have long realized that the situation in China was fraught with the greatest dangers. The withholding of the spoils of war from Japan by the Russian government, and the encroachments of European governments, the mapping out of spheres to be absorbed in case of the dismemberment of China, have lead to constant jealousies and war preparations, so that the thoughtful student has longlooked for troubles in the far East which might eventuallly bring about the general European war which has been so long threatened and dreaded. The present fanatical uprising will be put down after a tremendous loss of life and great slaughter of the celestials; but no one can foresee the consequences of such a war. The importance of America's possessions in the far East is so well known and so well understood that she cannot be a mere spectator, but must take her part of the responsibilities as one of the first powers of the earth; but her position is so different from that of the European countries that all that will be needed is conservative action and a desire to be just and honest in her dealings with the Orientals to make hers a commanding position, no matter what the events may bring forth.



BARON VON KETTELER.

While it would be impossible to give the latest details of the revolt, which have already appeared in the daily papers and have been read by every one, still it perhaps would do no harm to point out some of the features of the campaign so that in reading hereafter a better conception may be had of what it all means. China is divided into two parts, North and South China, and it is the northern part which gave rise to the Boxer rebellion, from which it has spread and at the present time is probably very far into the whole empire.

It must always be remembered in reading that the sources of information, except on the few coast cities, are in the hands of the Chinese. They are notably a crafty race, and consider it no dishonor to spread false reports where they think it is to their advantage. This characteristic, which is found in almost every Chinaman, becomes a national sin; and in diplomacy it is almost impossible to feel that any nation is being treated with truth or directness.

The empire is extremely wealthy, and is populated by a horde of Mongolians variously estimated from 400,000,000 to 500,000,000 souls. The people are patient and industrious to the highest degree. It must not be thought that the Chinese as a whole are ignorant or barbarians; on the contrary they have the very highest kind of cultivation, and education extends among them may be to a greater degree than in the Caucasians, although of a different age and different period. It can only be said that their civilization resembles very much the civilization of the world 3000 or 5000 years ago, and the now obsolete Egyptian civilization, which in its time represented the highest civilization of the world, is very similar to the highest forms of Chinese civilization at the present day. They are largely followers of the doctrines of Confucius, although Buddhism extends throughout the empire, and it is owing to the fanatical appeals of the Buddhist priests that many of the atrocities of the present rebellion are due.

At this writing it is impossible to definitely state the progress which has been made by rebellion. The reports are contradictory, being published and denied day after day; but it seems comparatively certain that all the Europeans who were in Pekin on July 1st were massacred, and it would seem that those who were captured by the Chinese were submitted to the most horrible barbarities and torture. In fact the details, comprising as they do the shooting of women and children to prevent their capture by the Chinese, the tortures of the wounded and similiar barbarisms, make the details of this revolt too sickening to be considered.

The tragedy of Pekin has spread a feeling of retaliation throughout the civilized world, and armies from all parts of the Christian domain are being prepared and hurried to the scene of the catastrophe. The present intention is to send 22,000 Americans, and already the comparatively small number there have done remarkable work in connection with the allied armies. One of the most serious developments in the situation develops that the Boxers are coming South with many regiments released by the fall of the Pekin legations to arouse the southern provinces; and that an imperial edict was sent forth in the early part of July commanding all the viceroys and governors to immediately commence war against the foreigners, and declaring that officers of all ranks who refuse to obey would be decapitated. The gravity of such a situation cannot be fully comprehended.

Another thing to be considered in reading about this war is that the Chinese have been preparing for war against the Caucasians for the last three years, and the amount of ammunition and modern equipment which has been poured into the empire during that time is almost incredible. German officers have also been putting the Chinese army on a war basis ever since the Japanese war, and with countless number of young Chinamen to draw upon, the very numbers make them formidable. Many people will underestimate the strength of China, relying on the fact that the Japanese whipped them so easily in the late war; but it should be remembered that in that case Japan showed a naval superiority very early, and that the entire fighting was confined to a small peninsula from which the Japanese drove the Chinese with great loss.

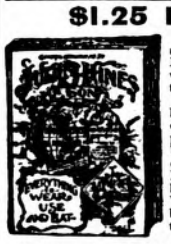
As has been pointed out before, China has little or no railroad communication, and is an immense country, the interior of which is hardly known by Europeans. The European settlements are largely on the coast, and the capturing and holding of any number of these coast cities would not mean the subjugation of the Chinese empire. It would be very much as if there were no railroad communication in the United States, and an invading army should take Portland, Boston and New York. It is easy to imagine how impossible it would be to subjugate the United States in such a case, especially if the population of this country were three or four times as large as it is now. The proposition confronting Christendom is the most serious that has appeared for centuries. No better saying upon the situation at the present time can be given than in the words of Robert Pacey Moon, M. P.:

"The British government, it may be taken for granted, will not declare war on China simply because that is confirmed which has long been expected. Since Her Majesty's Ministers have not held the dynasty responsible for the foreign colony's peril, they cannot logically hold the dynasty responsible for the massacre. The question of guilt or innocence must be determined before retribution commences. If it is certain that Chinamen fought for our people in these last awful days in Pekin, we must not include them in our scheme of vengeance. Therefore, confirmation of the rumors of massacre has not changed the government's purpose, except to intensify it.

"Two alternatives confront the allies. They are forced to crush the reactionaries or withdraw from China. They are forced to visit terrible retaliation on the murderers or to get out of the Empire and leave it to the superstition and savagery of the dark ages.

"The battle that is before us is really that of Christianity against heathenism. It will not be a battle of reason and argument but one of lead and steel. We shall see whether or not the Powers will waver. We shall see whether Kaiser Wilhelm, the Don Quixote of modern monarchs, will back his eloquence with his sword. We shall have a chance to judge whether the triple motive of vengeance, commercialism and zeal for Christ is enough to compel civilization to accept the bloody challenge of barbarism."

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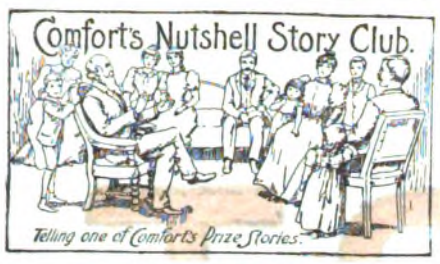
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23/30	24	25	26	27	28	29





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PRIZE WINNERS FOR SEPTEMBER.

Charles E. Barns, First Prize.
Howard M. Strong, Second Prize.
Geo. H. Smith, Third Prize.
Burton McPhail, Fourth Prize.
E. C. Litsey, Fifth Prize.

A STOWAWAY WAG.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY CHARLES E. BARNS.

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BARTON moved up the gangplank peering through the groups for a familiar face. It lacked half an hour of sailing time and the big Cunarder was thronged, ten God-speeders to every voyager.

"Let's see," he mused at last, drawing forth a card bearing the simple legend "16," "Harvey may be below wrestling with the stewards. I'll surprise him."

Down the gangway Tom slid along the mahogany after the manner of the confirmed sea-dog. Brushing now and then against busy, clean-jacketed stewards, he waded through various strata of tiffin-fumes, fresh paint and sea-bilge, at last standing before Stateroom 16. He rapped. As there was no response, Barton opened the door and passed in.

The room was empty—not even a handbag in sight. "So much the better," said the wag of the Players'. "I'll climb into the upper berth and pelt him with pillows when he comes. He's bound to be here in a moment." He climbed stealthily into the top bunk, closing his eyes, feigning sleep and listening. The donkey-engine pounded, the longshoremen groaned and swore under heavy loads, there was a scuffle of feet overhead, but every laden voyager passed Stateroom 16. Tom fell to reviewing the events of the evening before.

What a glorious send-off he had given his college friend, Harvey Pease, at the Players'! What viands, punch, song, repartee! Harvey had been three years in the mines of Brazil and was on his way to London, via New York, to complete a great deal. He was also, so Tom dimly suspected, bent on a matrimonial project—aye, this undoubting Thomas believed that the fair one in question was on this very ocean liner, else Harvey would have stayed over till the next sailing. How he would like to get just a glimpse of her! And so they had parted at four that morning, Tom promising to come down and wish his old comrade bon voyage. Strange! What could be keeping Harvey so late?——

Tom awoke with a gasp. He felt a mighty throbbing, first through his fevered temples, then through all this leviathan of the sea. Hark! No longer the clatter of the donkey-engines, the oaths of the longshoremen. Peering over the ledge, he saw that the stateroom was still empty. Then there came a slight rocking and his very heart stopped beating. Heavens! could it be possible? Floundering to the floor, Barton staggered to the porthole and clutched it, staring. Far over the horizon he saw the fading tip of Sandy Hook lighthouse.

In moments like these men of resources, particularly wags by profession, assume the aggressive through sheer staggering fright. Tom turned and caught a segment of his profile in the glass and saw that it was very pale. Instinctively both hands thrust into various pockets, disgorging. That discouraging search revealed a bunch of keys, a batch of rejected jokes, two unreceipted bills and forty-six cents in money. And he a stowaway, seven days from London! In his outstretched palms he weighed the paltry assets, setting his jaws.

"Brilliant!" he cut aloud through the salt spray. "The joker joked, the wag wagged, the wit outwitted." Then from sheer bravado, "I'll ring up the steward and order a b-and-s."

But with thumb on the push-button, Tom weakened. Stowaways did not usually do that sort of thing. They went to the captain, confessed all, got a blow and a kick and then nine days of coal-stoking. Any of that for the exquisite Tom Barton, crown jester of the Players'? Nay, nay. Now that he recalled what other stowaways did, he resolved to do the very opposite. He plumped down on the edge of the berth and grew philosophic.

Another difficulty. To be discovered as a stowaway meant to be laughed at all the way to London and back again. If there is anything that the professional joker shrinks from it is the laugh—on the lips of the other fellow. And yet he must be up and doing. That stateroom was growing unspeakably odious. The walls seemed closing in upon him. Oh, the terror—not of being discovered a stowaway—but of the joke being cabled back to the Players'! It would mean positive expatriation. At any rate he might steal out and run down the delinquent Harvey.

Guardedly Tom opened the door, peering out. Not a soul in sight. Through the chink he slipped, thrusting chin in air and with mustache a twist, bearded the deserted passageway. Again he drew forth the card, scanning it. This time it came up the other way and he read "91". How stupid! he had read the number upside down. By stealth Barton crossed amidships, scanning the white numbers. The door of Stateroom 91 was ajar. Tom peered through, and seeing the room empty, unhooked the door and passed in.

Several hampers and bags lay about, one lying open with a flask of cognac temptingly in sight. "This is where I get at least one joke on Harvey," he mused as he appropriated the flask. Then helping himself to two oranges and a handful of apricots, Tom stole back to safety unseen. In a quiet nook the wag stowaway ate and drank like one famished, then wandered down through the intricacies of the throbbing hulk, not yet trusting himself to the decks.

Safe as a murderer in a crowded tenement, Barton roamed about trying to dispel the conviction in his heart that he was a criminal, jollying everybody from the second-cabin cook, from whom he stole two buns, to the printer at work on the morrow's menu, whom he robbed of a steamer-cap and his afternoon tea. After that he felt so like a cigar that he stole back to Stateroom 91, helped himself to a handful and thus armed resolved at once to beard the upper airs.

At the head of the gangway Tom came face to face with a very charming young lady in handsome traveling gown. She turned to reprove his staring impertinence with a frown, but her face instantly lighted. "Oh, Mr. Montague!" she cried. "Is it really you?" Then to the elder behind her, "Aunty, dear, see! Here's our good friend Mr. Montague. Narragansett Pier, you remember. How lovely! Why, I did not not see your name on the passenger list—"

"Sh—h!" interposed the wag, seizing the profferred white hand as a man in a rushing torrent clutches a passing twig. "I'm—er—incog, don't you see."

"Another Wall street deal, or are you going over to play before the Queen?"

"Ah, I assure you, in my present mood I feel capable of anything, if only you are once more my mascot——"

"The same dear old Jack Montague, Aunty, dear! how lovely to meet again."

"But aren't you a trifle stouter, Mr. Montague?" The elder's voice was somewhat muffled with the handles of her jewelled lorgnette through which she surveyed him. "You must change your seat to our table. So many stupid people, eh, Adele?"

"Particularly *one*," shot back the scornful beauty. Then came reminiscences, half truths, guarded confidences and promises to meet later on deck aft, and Barton sauntered on.

With the sang froid of a true gamester, Tom passed into the smoking-room. There to his amazement he caught a glimpse of his friend Harvey Pease seated opposite a portly gentleman radiant in a brandy flush and diamonds. Cards were flying between them though no money was in sight. Tom watched them furtively a time, then stole away. The hour was inopportune and the place unseemly for a meeting. Into the depths again Barton descended, making more friends with the help of the stolen cigars. Toward evening he wandered near Stateroom 91 and was amazed to see emerge therefrom not his friend of years, but the latter's late adversary over the green cloth. Tom's heart leaped; then as the tall man swept amidships, Barton slipped into the little chamber.

What a blunder! He had robbed the wrong man. Furtively he restored the empty flask; but as he did so, the sight of a pack of cards gave him a stir. He took them up, examining closely. There was no doubt of it—they were marked. He drove further through the open portmanteau. The search revealed a professional crook-gambler's layout. Appropriating the cards, Barton slid back into Statercom 16, and spent four hours over the intricacies of marked backs, mastering them. Then he stole back, restored the cards and sauntered up to the deck aft.

The night was starless and the deck lights none too brilliant, but the ladies recognized the solitary wanderer, hailing him and making room for a steamer-chair between them. Then the word-sparring began, "Mr. Montague" evasive and glittering in generalities, gathering all while giving nothing. After something of an hour of this, the fair Adele leaned across and breathed to her elder, "Here he comes, Aunty, dear. Now do find some excuse, you know——"

Barton looked up at the solitary figure advancing. It was Harvey Pease! The latter glared at the interloper so pleasantly ensconsed, was presented to "Mr. Montague," and seated himself beside Adele. The Aunt grew confidential to Tom.

"Great bore. Met my niece on Brazilian steamer. Made desperate love and all that. Poor girl detests him. Do, Mr. Montague, *do* monopolize her as much as possible and make the dear girl's voyage less odious. You have such tact, y' know."

"Do my level best;" sighed Barton, and resumed his catapult of interrogatives.

By eleven o'clock that night, at which hour they parted, Tom had the family history of the Raleighs, of which honorable house Miss Adele was sole daughter and heiress, up even to the threshold of the skeleton-closet; for the aunt, a perfect crypt of reminiscence and family adoration, gave all as a school girl confiding her first love-affair. For an hour more Barton sat and smoked the other man's cigars, then sauntered below, pausing at the blinds of the smoking-room to spy out Harvey Pease once more in the meshes of the made-up southron. "Harvey is playing two hard games against heavy odds," he mused as he turned unseen into Stateroom 16.

It was a sleepless night, and Barton turned out early, nor returned till late. During the day he roamed through the internal economics of the sea-behemoth, managed to 'sample' enough of the cooks' dainties to stave off hunger, and went to the 'case' for the printer, aiding him in getting out 'The Tinpania Tidings,' a ship-bulletin issued at six-pence for the benefit of the Seamens' Home. That evening the printer worked his press overtime, for the 'Tidings' simply bulged with brilliancy, convulsing the ship and netting the Seamens' Home two pounds ten. That night Mr. Jack Montague spent three delicious hours on the deck aft in company with the Raleighs to the light of the dim stars and the threatening gleams from the pallid face and angry eyes of Harvey Pease, who, as usual, drowned defeat in love by a plunge in the ocean of hazard. On the morning of the third day of Tom's stowaway-ship the ship's printer resigned to him the editorial chair, reportorial staff, press and entire plant of 'The Tinpania Tidings,' and stewards fell over one another in their efforts to keep the brilliant feuilletonist, poet and wag in tea and biscuit. The 'Tidings' from henceforth simply staggered the ship and the Seamens' Home fund rolled up. Nightly the usual seance took place on the deck aft, 'Mr. Montague' keeping his promise to monopolize Miss Raleigh, noting with alarm, however, that Harvey Pease was growing hourly more moon-eyed and cadaverous. About midnight of the sixth, at the parting moment, Miss Raleigh gazed beseechingly into the calm eyes of the man of expedients, and said, "Mr. Montague, do you remember what you said to me under the elms just one year ago to-night?"

'Montague' trembled. "Ah, who could ever forget?" he murmured, vaguely.

"And though I refused you, for I did not know my own heart then, you said, 'Adele, dear, if ever you change your mind, speak only the word and I will come to you.' Do you remember, Mr.—J—Jack?"

"But much has happened since then, my dear Miss—Adele. All is changed——"

"Not in your heart, I hope—don't say that——"

"No, but in my fortunes. I have lost all my money, Adele—all!" He bent low with a painful simulation of a sob.

"Oh, is that all? Why, I thought you meant something serious. Besides, Jack, why worry about that? I have enough for both, you know that, don't you?"

The wag began to sweat blood. "See here!" he cried in despair. "I'm a scoundrel—an arrant criminal. Come down here where there are no eavesdroppers and I will tell you the whole thing." He drew her into the shadows, seizing her hand as if she would fly from him, and whispered penitently. "Miss Raleigh, I—I'm not 'Jack Montague' as you have all along thought, but I'm just plain Tom Barton, of New York; as good a man as Jack Montague or any other man, and I love you a thousand times more than he or any one else on earth ever loved you or ever will. There!"

Half an hour later Barton passed by the smoking-room just as the door flew wide and out into the night came Harvey Pease with the air of a whipped panther. Barton saw it all, and resolved to revenge Harvey on the gambler, taking his place at the green cloth opposite the crook, with a capital of forty-six cents, a bronze face and an intimate knowledge of marked cards. Five hours of play, and then Tom Barton turned into Stateroom 16 with just twenty-three hundred dollars of Harvey's losses recovered. Next morning they met.

The comrades clasped hands in staggering silence, then Harvey broke loose. "My salvation!" he cried. "Did you drop straight from heaven to save me from suicide? Tom, I'm wellnigh insane. I've lost nearly all I possess—twenty-nine hundred dollars—to a scoundrel of a ship gambler. I've also lost the sweetest girl on earth—the only woman I ever loved—to a miserable interloper by the name of 'Montague,' whom I am going to challenge to a duel and you are to be my second."

"Too busy," broke in the wag. He produced a goodly roll. "Here, Harvey, if you will promise never to touch a card again, I'll restore your losses, to the tune of two thousand and more, which I recovered from the crook gamester. Sorry I can't recover so easily from 'Mr. Montague.' Good bye! I'm Editor-in-chief of the 'Tinpania Tidings' and the devils are waiting for copy." With that Tom left his comrade.

The last number of the 'Tidings' was a wonder for wit; but two paragraphs alone are worthy of quotation here:

"A STOWAWAY.—It may interest Captain Kilrain and his seven-day guests to know that a gentleman stowaway has occupied Stateroom 16 for the entire voyage. As, however, the Seamen's Home fund is richer by about 60 pounds sterling through his efforts on the 'Tinpania Tidings', may he be forgiven!"

"AT THE SIGN OF THE SMOKING-ROOM.—A professional ship-gambler has won over $7,000 on this voyage, nearly $3,000 from one young victim alone. A reporter for the 'Tidings' penetrated the stateroom of the crook and found there a complete snide-game layout, marked cards and all. 'Tidings' suggests that the captain place the offender under immediate arrest."

"SOCIETY NOTE.—The engagement of Miss Adele Raleigh of Baltimore, to Mr. T. Jack Montague-Barton, of New York, is announced."

THE FOURTEENTH GUEST.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY HOWARD MARCUS STRONG.

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IN all Paris there is no stranger sign than the one displayed opposite the Vincennes railway station, just where the Rue de Lyon leads out from the Place de la Bastille. It is a very modest little announcement, lettered in black and gold, and swung above the entrance to a narrow, unlighted flight of steps. Those who pause to turn away with a smile or jest, have learned that——

"This Agency Supplies a Fourteenth Guest When Desired."

M. Loisir had never seen this curious sign but once, yet it made so lasting an impression upon his memory that, some six months later, he was able to recall the exact location of the agency. With all other intelligent persons, he had sneered at such pandering to popular superstition; and once he had felt constrained to

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paragraph the matter in the "Temps," for such an ignorant survival of a benighted age merited the keen thrust of his pasquinade.

Being a jovial bachelor with many friends, M. Loisir was wont to celebrate his birthday with a yearly dinner. It was upon one of these pleasant occasions that he was suddenly confronted by a startling exigency. A quick glance about the room had disclosed the fact that, of the fifteen guests bidden, only twelve were present. Adding himself to this number, the distressed host saw that an unlucky thirteen would soon surround his board.

At this crisis the agency in the Rue de Lyon was called to mind. There was not a moment to lose. A servant was dispatched to the proper address with the most urgent order for a fourteenth guest. Meanwhile, M. Loisir, with his ready wit, strove to divert the gentlemen from the contemplation of their empty stomachs. He liberated whole flocks of new jokes, and unreeled meters of sparkling verse; he recounted more bloody adventures than twelve strong men could believe; his remarks grew incoherent, while the perspiration started out upon his forehead; his eyes followed the galloping hands of the clock, and his ear was strained to catch the first click of the door-latch. It came at last.

"Ah!" cried M. Loisir, springing to his feet and darting into the entry, "the belated guest has arrived." Whereat the twelve gentlemen sighed with relief and made ready for the advance upon the dining-room.

There was an exclamation of surprise from the entry, and the voice of M. Loisir was heard raised in protest. A moment later the portieres were drawn aside, and the host appeared with a beautiful woman leaning on his arm. His face was a study of conflicting emotions.

"Gentlemen," he said, "it is unnecessary for me to introduce you—every one present is so fortunate as to know Mlle. D'Artois. What strange chance has brought her as a benediction to our bachelor dinner we will no doubt learn in time. But first of all, let us see what provision the caterer has made to allay the cruel pangs of hunger."

It was a very quiet company until the last course was served. This was perhaps due to vigorous appetites and a certain embarrassed restraint. M. Loisir was like a man who dreams that he is dreaming and only awaits the denouement. Mlle. D' Artois attempted a little gayety, but it sounded forced and unnatural. The gray-haired Hincmar at last made bold to drag forward the subject that each one was revolving in his own mind.

"My dear," he said, turning to Mlle. D'Artois, "why keep us in suspense any longer? Who holds the magic key, you or our good host Loisir? Come, we are all old friends, unlock this pleasant little mystery and let us laugh with you."

"Let M. Loisir lead," she replied lightly, "and I will follow suit. If he jests, then will I. If he speaks sober truth, you shall hear the same from my lips. But in the latter case you will all be grievously disappointed, for a matter of francs can hardly be romantic."

"Then let us have both," cried Captain Fronsac, "truth from M. Loisir and romance from Mlle. D'Artois."

But the majority were for the truth and nothing but the truth. "Begin! begin!" they insisted. "We are dying of curiosity."

"My kind friends," said M. Loisir, with some hesitation, "you may have seen my paragraph in the 'Temps,' in which I ridiculed a certain superstition that still flourishes in this enlightened age."

"I recall it," observed M. Pepin, the journalist. "It was very well put. I confess to reproducing it without crediting the source."

"I only mentioned it," continued M. Loisir, modestly, "in order that you might know how free I am from the common belief in signs and omens. However it was probable that, of the company this evening, one might fear to make the thirteenth at my table; for it is said that one of such a gathering always dies within a year. Delaying the dinner, I sent to the agency in the Rue de Lyon for a fourteenth guest, but failed to specify that a gentleman was desired. To my astonishment Mlle. D'Artois returned with the messenger. I feel honored beyond words of expression, but am as much mystified as any one else."

"This grows interesting," laughed Count de Valery, as M. Loisir ceased speaking. "I think our novelist must already scent a plot. Eh, Roberval?"

"No, no," replied Roberval, "I see nothing so far—only that friend Loisir could not be tempted to sit down with thirteen at the table."

M. Loisir's protest was drowned in the general laughter, and there were calls for Mlle. D'Artois' story.

"What I am about to say," the lady began, when quiet was restored, "may be truth or it may be fiction—or both. I claim that as my prerogative. I will begin at the end."

"What brought me here was of course M. Loisir's message to the agency. What brought me to the agency was a pressing need of money. You all look surprised! You have doubtless believed me a very great heiress; yet I confess that I am forced to serve this agency for twenty francs a night. M. Loisir will be obliged to pay fifty francs for my presence, and the agency will gain the difference."

"She has no feeling," he told himself, "or she would not resort to such cruel torture."

With much deliberation each of the thirteen suitors wrote his name on a slip of paper and deposited it in a large Japanese vase. To insure equal chances, M. Loisir was made to shake up the names in the vase and present it to Mlle. D'Artois for the drawing.

"It will be the first one," she said tremulously, "and I will abide by the oracle."

Her hand disappeared in the vase and her fingers brought up a tiny strip of paper. Her eyes scanned it narrowly, then it was permitted to flutter back into the jar.

"Yes—you are a very—nervous writer—M. Loisir." she said.

Crash! went the Japanese vase, and M. Loisir was holding Mlle. D'Artois in his arms.

"My prize!" he murmured. "My prize!"

Very sadly the guests shook hands with the happy couple, and congratulated M. Loisir on his rare good fortune, while inwardly cursing their own bad luck. Then they had the good taste to withdraw.

"You will at least permit me to announce it in the morning paper," pleaded M. Pepin, the journalist. "It will create a sensation, I promise you. May I make it a half column?" To this there were no objections offered.

"Annette," said Felix Loisir, when he was finally left alone with his fourteenth guest, "if you love me with a whole heart, how could you so lightly trust our future happiness to chance?"

"Dear Felix," she replied, "I could not read the names on the slips."

"Could not?"

"No; for love is blind."

"But my name, you——"

"Ah, the heart will speak!"

When they were out in the cool night air, and on the way to the stately mansion of her father, Annette said:

"Felix, I have one more confession."

"Well?"

"I am a 'Daughter of the Cross,' and we may only consecrate to charity that which we earn by our own labors. So, you see——"

M. Loisir saw.

KING'S EVIL.

How Ignorance and Superstition go Hand in Hand.

A curious sight might have been seen in England a couple of centuries ago. At Whitehall or some other royal residence a little group of people would shrinkingly await the coming of the king, in order to be "touched for the evil." The specific "evil" was scrofula, and it was the popular belief that scrofula could be cured by the royal touch. Hence the common name for scrofula was King's Evil.

Nowadays we know that scrofula is a disease of the blood and that even were there magic in a kingly touch, no external treatment could cure scrofula. The medicine which cures scrofula must deal with the blood. It must be able to eradicate and eliminate the poisons which corrupt the blood and breed and feed disease. When the blood is cleansed, the pimples, blotches, boils and other eruptions disappear, ulcers and sores are healed and the flesh becomes sound and healthy.



THE RIGHT WAY

to cleanse the blood from scrofula is to choose that remedy which has cured thousands of people who suffered from scrofula in its most grievous forms.

"I am using a good many of your medicines in my practice," writes Dr. Joseph Fike, of Lost Springs, Marion Co., Kansas. "Ten years ago there was an emigration from Rusland to this country and there was a lady in the company who was badly affected with that dreadful disease, scrofula. Her mouth and throat were in an awful condition, and there were lumps on the outside, below the jaws, the size of a hen's egg. Other doctors had been called and they said it was a fatal case. I was called and made my diagnosis. I felt confident that none of my remedies would benefit her any. It came to my mind that Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery was recommended for such cases, so I went to the drug store and bought one bottle and gave it to her to use as directed. Five bottles cured her and she is well to-day. She is married now and has three healthy children."

Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery judged solely by the cures it has effected is without doubt the most powerful and most perfect blood purifying medicine of the century. It is a radical remedy. It goes to the root of the disease. Some preparations containing mineral poisons such as mercury are offered as cures for scrofula. These medicines only suppress the symptoms of disease for a while and give the skin a look of clearness, but after a time the suppressed disease like a smothered fire breaks out anew and with a new violence.

It is the uniform testimony of those who have been cured of scrofulous diseases by the use of "Golden Medical Discovery," that the cure is permanent. In many instances the testimonial to the cure has not been offered until the lapse of several years proved how thoroughly and lastingly the medicine had done its work.

No class of people are more grateful for the blood purifying power of the "Discovery" than women whose faces have been marked and marred by pimples and other eruptions. The smooth skin and clear complexion which come back when "Golden Medical Discovery" has swept the blood clean of its corrupting poisons, are a source of unfeigned delight to those who for years have had their beauty marred by some form of eruptive disease. Beauty begins in the blood, and the first step to beauty is to cleanse the blood of the corrupting impurities which weaken the body and befoul the flesh.

THE SCOURGE OF CIVILIZATION.

From half civilized or unsanitary countries come the plagues which decimate the teeming populations of the Orient. Sanitary science and medical skill have banished the plagues from among ourselves, but civilization has its own scourge in that form of scrofula which attacks the lungs and is popularly known as consumption.

Plagues are not persistent. They appear and disappear again for years. Scrofula of the lungs or consumption is a persistent disease. Every day of every year it gathers in its victims; one-sixth of all deaths from disease being attributed to consumption. Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery cures scrofula wherever it finds it. It eliminates the scrofulous poison from the blood and so the organs which are fed by blood are relieved from the scrofulous poisons which destroy them. Obstinate, deep-seated coughs, bronchitis, bleeding of the lungs and similar dangerous forms of disease are perfectly and permanently cured by "Golden Medical Discovery."

"Dr. Pierce's medicine has not only benefited me greatly but it has done wonders for my two sons," writes Mrs. M. Hartrick, of Demster, Oswego Co., N. Y. "Both had scrofula. I have lost two daughters in less than five years with consumption and scrofula. My eldest son was taken two or three years ago with hemorrhage from the lungs. It troubled him for over a year. He took Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery and has not had a hemorrhage in over a year. My younger son had scrofulous sores on his neck; had two lanced, but has not had any since he commenced to take your medicine."

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"Ah, my dear," said the grizzled Hincmar, with tears in his eyes, "this is a shame. Why have you not come to me, your old friend, and told all your troubles? God knows that you are welcome to everything that I have."

"It is the same with us all, Mlle. D'Artois," said M. Loisir, earnestly. "If I might devote some of my useless riches to your comfort, it would make me the happiest man in light-hearted France."

"O you must not talk so!" cried Mlle. D'Artois. "You will have me in tears if you continue, and that would dampen the humor of the situation."

After a moment's silence she continued:

"There are some women who would seek marriage as a release from such a difficulty. I—I have been thinking of it myself; but without a fortune——"

"Annette," said Hincmar, solemnly, "there are thirteen good, honorable, unmarried gentlemen here this evening. Will it please you to bestow your hand upon any one of them?"

"But what if they—what if he should refuse?" she ventured.

"Refuse!" exclaimed Hincmar. "Refuse? If he refused, girl, it would be the very last sin he committed in this world."

"O you are very terrible," she said, laughing softly. "But I will tell you a secret. Every gentleman here has already asked for my hand—I mean all but one."

The gentlemen stole indignant glances at each other, turned very red, coughed distressingly, and waited for the embarrassing pause to be bridged over.

"And may we know the name of this one who has come so far short of his duty?" inquired Captain Fronsac. "I move that we make it unanimous."

A chair was pushed back at the head of the table, and M. Loisir, very white and agitated, moved to where Mlle. D'Artois was seated.

"Annette," he said firmly, "I have never had the courage to speak when we were alone. The presence and example of my friends emboldens me. Believe me, I have loved you for years. Will you bestow your hand upon me?"

"Bravo! bravo!" cried Roberval, drawing pencil and tablet from his pocket. "Proceed! I take notes for a new novel."

"You make me very happy, Felix," Mlle. D'Artois replied, when M. Loisir pressed her for an answer; "but I must not be unfair to my other friends. Listen all! I am resolved to take for my husband one of the gentlemen here to-night. What can be fairer than to decide it by lot—are you agreed? Do not answer. It shall be so."

M. Loisir groaned and went to his chair in great distress.

THE SIGN ON THE GATE.

A Story of Missionary Life in China at the Present Time.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY GEORGE H. SMITH.

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DR. EUNICE PORTER walked across the room which she used as an office in her neat little Chinese house, and lifting a slender ebony rod, struck the bronze gong which hung beside the door.

This gong looked like a miniature Chinese pagoda, with one artistically carved story hung above another. When the ebony stick ran down from top to bottom a deep melodious chord of sound filled all the house and floated out through the bamboo walls into the garden.

Dr. Porter waited a moment, and then, when Wan Tche, her little Chinese man-servant who should have answered the summons, did not appear, she struck two chords on the gong. This was the signal for the cook, whose domain, although in the back of the house, was yet within easy hearing. Still there was no response.

"This is very strange," said Dr. Porter to herself, and went to look for some one whom she could send on an errand. When she found no one but herself in the house she opened the street door and stepped outside. While she stood there, looking down the street, the door swung to behind her. When the young woman turned to enter the house again she saw upon the outside of the door, staring her full in the face, a sprawling dull red stain of human blood.

Stepping quickly inside the gate the woman locked the door and double bolted it, and hastening through the house made fast all the other entrances. Then she sat down in the office and took counsel with herself. She knew now why the servants had not answered her call. They had seen the mark on the door and had fled the house as if it had been plague stricken.

Dr. Eunice Porter was a medical missionary who had been living in one of the Chinese cities for six years, and working among the natives there. Her work had seemed successful, and she had felt that she had won the confidence and regard of the people to an unusual extent. Never until the Boxer trouble had arisen had there been any public intimation of ill will, and now, to find that she had been

marked for death did not cause her fear so much as grief.

For that was what the dull red mark on the street door meant. Dr. Porter knew Oriental life well enough to read the warning. A sullen, ugly mob already might be gathering before the house—she listened involuntarily for the sound. Perhaps it might be night before they would come, or even the morrow, but come they would, and all means of escape from the city had been shut off for days. All the white residents but herself and a few of the teachers in a mission school had left the city long ago, before the army had encamped about the place. Her friends had urged her to go with them, but she had refused, and would not even leave her own house to join the teachers in the school. She had told herself that she would not be harmed. She had always placed great confidence in the gratitude which the people had seemed to feel for the good which her medical skill had done them.

Was this to be her reward? Had she forgotten or underestimated the jealousy and hatred which her cures had stirred up in the hearts of the native "witch-like" doctors?

She thought once of trying to reach the mission, but knew in her heart that it was now too late to do this. Even if she dared pass through the streets she would find the same dread seal on the door of that house too. Perhaps the mission was already destroyed and the teachers slain.

The hours of the day passed, and the woman waited. In mid-afternoon she heard coming the sounds for which she had listened. A murmur which grew to a roar, advancing up the street and centering before her door. Men's voices, and the shriller ones of women. She wondered why they did not break down the door at once. Then the sound was hushed, and she heard one voice speaking—some one whom she had helped perhaps, pleading for her life. All gratitude was not lost, then. She was thankful for that.

"Tapi yang kuei tze; tapi, tapi!" (Kill the foreign devils; kill, kill!") a shrill voice shouted, and the din began once more. Blows were struck against the gate.

The doctor opened a desk in her office and took a tiny bottle from among those neatly placed there. She would not open it until the last moment, but it was a relief to know that one breath from its contents would be sufficient—that even after the mob had broken into that very room she could put her real self beyond their reach. Her dead body she could not save—she had seen human heads carried through the city on long bamboo stakes—but her life, and the power to make her suffer, she could put beyond the reach of these men.

The tumult grew louder, and then hushed again. What now? Was some other grateful friend risking his life to plead for her? There was silence except for a knocking on the gate, and then, when the door was not opened, a loud voice cried imperiously, "Open, in the name of his Highness, Prince Ki, the ruler of this province!"

The woman in the house could not comprehend what this meant, but she made no move to obey. The summons must be some ruse of the mob. Prince Ki was said to be a well-meaning man, but his wife, a woman of royal blood, was one of the most bitter reactionaries in all the empire. She had great influence over her husband, and it was said that she had secretly incited the uprising in the province.

"Open, in the name of the ruler of the province!" The summons came again, and then, when no one answered, a stronger blow upon the gate broke the lock and bolts and sent the door inward.

The woman in the office, peeping out through a lattice, saw standing in the gateway the chief envoy of Prince Ki himself, gorgeous in his official uniform. Behind him stood his escort, and slinking back from them, huddled in the street, the men and women who formed the mob, cowed into silence.

One other thing the woman saw. When the door had swung back she had seen the death stain on it, but she had also seen, stamped over this, the huge yellow seal which was the sign of Prince Ki himself, a symbol which was omnipotent in the province. So long as that sign was on her house the missionary knew that not all the men in the city, fanatics though they might be, dare harm the house or any one in it.

The missionary opened the office door and stood in full view of all the company.

"What do you want?" she asked in Chinese of the envoy.

The minister made a profound obeisance. "Madam," he said "the little son of the noble Prince Ki is ill unto death. His Highness begs that you will come to save his life." The messenger waited a moment, and then added, "Madam, the most noble Princess Ki Wang also begs that you will come."

In the few minutes that she stood there listening many thoughts flashed through the woman's mind. Never, in all the six years she had lived in China, had the Princess sent for her, nor had she ever seen her royal Highness. Was this a trap? She knew, though, of the little Prince. He was an only son, the child of his parents in their old age. The cry for help might be an honest one. The instincts of the physician conquered.

"I will go," she said. It was not the first time that Dr. Eunice Porter had faced death.

Taking a medicine case from the office, and still keeping the little glass vial in her hand, Dr. Porter walked into the street. At a sign from the prince's envoy four coolies in government livery brought up a sedan chair. The missionary entered it and was rapidly borne away.

The road to the palace passed the mission house. Dr. Porter, looking from behind the curtains of the chair saw what she had feared, the same red sign of death upon the closed street gate, but as yet, thank God, no mob had gathered before the walls. Would they surge there from her house, disappointed of one victim to seek another?

The coolies, running swiftly, carried her through the palace gates while she was still wondering over the fate of her fellow countrywomen. Almost at once she found herself taken into the inner apartments of the palace—into which no foreigner had ever been admitted before—and near to the room where the sick boy was. The Prince himself was walking up and down an outer room.

"Go in," he said. "Lose no time! else he may be dead," and drew a silken curtain from before a door.

Inside the room the missionary saw a child purple in convulsions, held down by main force by a frightened nurse. In an instant everything but the patient and the case was forgotten.

An hour later the child lay quiet on the cushions, weak and unconscious, but at ease. The physician, sitting by his side, looked up to find before her, dressed in richest silk, a woman ashen-faced with fear and grief, and knew that for the first time she was in the presence of the Princess Ki Wang.

Their eyes met, and for a full minute the two women studied each other—a Chinese royal princess and a New England woman doctor. The princess spoke.

"Will my son live?" she whispered.

"I cannot say, now," the doctor answered, speaking in the native dialect of the province. "The night will show." Then she turned and taking from her case a white tablet dissolved a portion of it and placed the liquid between the boy's lips. In that minute of time, when she had been looking into the royal mother's eyes, the physician had resolved to save not only her own life but that of her fellow teachers in the mission.

An hour later the doctor sent for Prince Ki and the boy's mother, and had them see the child. He was still quiet, but it seemed almost the quiet of death. He did not move, and hardly breathed. Sending all the servants from the room the doctor talked long and earnestly to the frightened parents. When she had done, the princess cried eagerly to her husband: "Go! Send at once! Lose no time! May the gods grant we be not too late!"

Five minutes later, the doctor, heard through the lattice window the steps of a company of men hastening from the palace. As soon as she was alone in the room she took another vial from her case, and dropping a portion of the contents into a porcelain cup half full of water, began to give the remedy to her patient at regular intervals.

When daylight came to the palace joy came with it, for the sick boy was said to be out of danger. Though he lay back on the cushions weak and faint, his eyes were open and he was conscious and could speak. When the parents were willing to let the white doctor go from the palace they would have given her gold and a jewel worthy the life of the son of a prince, but she refused them all.

"The ruler of this city, and the Princess Ki Wang," she said, "are able to give that which is of far greater value to me than gold and jewels."

And so it was that when her sedan chair was borne back to her house, to which she found the servants had already returned, she saw as she passed the mission that over the red death stain on the gate had been set the yellow symbol of royal protection.

THE BELT OF DEATH.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY BURTON MCPHAIL.

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SYDNEY Janvrin was at Bombay making purchases for another trip to the interior. Maskuki, a guide whom he had picked up somewhere in the town was with him.

This guide was generally considered a thoroughly bad man, ready to commit any crime for personal gain. A beautiful eye made the man twice as dangerous, for it would seem that no man could look deep within and suspect the true character of the man.

Doctor Tupper learned of the guide whom Janvrin had chosen and started at once for the latter's rooms, hoping to persuade him to get rid of Maskuki before he left the city. To his surprise and chagrin, however, the doctor found that he was one day too late, Janvrin having started the previous day.

Five days out of the city Janvrin became sick with malaria and for ten days scarcely left his tent. During this time the Hindoo proved a most solicitous servant, apparently doing all in his power to relieve his master.

"I have a considerable sum of money deposited at a bank in Bombay," said Janvrin one morning after a particularly bad night; "in case anything happens to me, take this bank-book and letter you will find in it and go to the bank; the money that will be paid you, you are to keep."

A day passed, however, and Janvrin seemed somewhat better.

"If the master could find strength to make a one day's journey to the North, he would find health again," said the Hindoo, "there is a great doctor twelve miles from here who could soon put him on his feet again."

The following day, the sick man feeling still better, the journey was attempted, Maskuki carrying all the luggage, Janvrin dragging himself along as best he could, stopping whenever he found his strength leave him. It was late at night when at last they arrived.

"Maskuki has with him a sick master," said the Hindoo, having greeted the doctor, "and he would beg you to restore him to health, good Salimkula."

A few other words were spoken in the native tongue which Janvrin did not understand at that time, though he learned their true import a few days later.

"Salimkula has power to make the white man well again," said the doctor, bowing graciously, "come within and rest while I prepare the medicine which shall bring new life."

Two hours passed before the doctor was seen again, though Janvrin could hear him at work a short distance away. When at length he did come, he brought a curious belt made of snake-skin and which he held carefully, as though afraid of injuring it.

"Salimkula is a great magician and doctor," said he, stooping beside the sick man, "permit him to loosen the clothing and fasten this belt about thee; it is the wonderful belt of life made solely by Salimkula, whose fame has gone throughout the land."

Deftly the Hindoo now loosened Janvrin's garments and in little more time than it takes to tell of it the belt was securely fastened about Janvrin's loins.

"Keep this belt about thee for one week," said the doctor, "and upon no occasion remove it. Taking the medicine that I now hand thee, you will be able to start on the morrow and one week from now new life will have entered the diseased body and forgotten will be the sickness and pain of the past few days."

The following morning Janvrin indeed did find himself much better, so that an early start was made. At noon, however, he complained of a feeling of pain both in the head and chest, something different than any he had experienced in the past. Maskuki, however, made light of it, affirming that it was sure to follow severe cases of malaria, and that shortly it would pass; in the meantime they must hasten forward, lest night overtake them in the jungle.

The pain which Janvrin complained of presently subsided and the march was pressed with more vigor, though a certain unaccountable feeling of weight both on the head and chest oppressed him.

The next day Janvrin found that though the fever was abated, new and strange feelings of pain and uneasiness had taken possession of him, and at noon, after traveling for four hours, refused to go farther, affirming that he was unable to advance another step.

Here they remained several days, Janvrin constantly growing worse, acute pains constantly harrassing him, his skin taking on a peculiar tinge of green which was gradually deepening. His temperature was five degrees above normal, pulse light and exceedingly rapid and his breath came in short painful gasps. It was evident that the sick man was fast approaching death.

Several times had Janvrin suggested the casting off of the belt which the doctor had fastened about him, but each time was the Hindoo ready with some excuse, affirming that in that alone was Janvrin's hope of final recovery. Finally, however, while Maskuki was absent securing a sack of water, he managed to unhook the belt and was about to toss it to one side, when the thought occurred to him that it might be well to examine more closely the snakeskin.

The belt was about half an inch thick midway between the two ends and gradually tapered to less than an eighth of an inch. The greatest width was at the center, being at that point about three inches across. The careless eye would perceive nothing peculiar about this belt, but looking closely, Janvrin discovered a tiny duct that seemed to lead directly into the thickest part of the belt; this duct was little larger than a fine needle.

Taking out his knife, Janvrin quickly cut the belt open between the lining and the snakeskin. That which he now beheld was a revelation in more ways than one. Within this belt was a minute mechanism, as delicately put together as the works of a watch. Even after the knife had opened the skin the tiny wheels were moving with perfect regularity. The duct which had first aroused his suspicions, Janvrin found was in direct communication with a little sack containing a green fluid.

Instantly did light break upon the sick man. Slowly but surely was he being poisoned to death at the hands of Maskuki and the native doctor. The motive—the bank account at Bombay.

Quickly taking thread and needle from his case, Janvrin now sewed the belt together, meanwhile watching sharply for the Hindoo's return. Scarcely had he finished when he came bearing the sack of water.

Something in Janvrin's eyes told the native that there was trouble in store for him, for he trembled as he stood before the white man.

"I want you to fasten this belt about you, Maskuki," said Janvrin, drawing his revolver, "I mean it; inside of thirty seconds it must be about you, or I shall blow out your brains."

For ten seconds the Hindoo stood like a statue before Janvrin, his face drawn and eyes starting from their sockets, Janvrin covering him with cocked revolver. Suddenly he sprang at the white man with the fury of a tiger, and had Janvrin been less watchful he would have succeeded in his purpose. As it was, however, he had covered less than half the six paces that separated the two men, when the revolver spoke, and the Hindoo lay dead at his feet.

Gradually Janvrin began to recuperate and a fortnight from the death of Maskuki he started for Bombay, which city he reached without incident worthy of note.

Carrying the belt to a chemist, the green fluid which it contained was analyzed and found to be identical with the poison of a snake little less venomous than the deadly cobra. One minute drop injected once in six hours had almost accomplished its work.

HELD FOR RANSOM.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY E. CARL LITSEY.

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GOLDDUST Gulch was in an uproar, and not without cause. It was not a new find; it was not a bar-room brawl ending in a double death; it was not the announcement that Coyote Charlie was going to quit drinking and make a man of himself. Such things as these were common, and no one paid any attention to them. A far more astounding thing had happened this morning, but we must go back a couple of weeks, in order to lead up to it.

Just fourteen days previous to this a stranger had come riding into Golddust Gulch late one afternoon. He was a dark man, and tall, for the slim legs which hung down on either side of the little gray burro he bestrode almost touched the ground. As he pulled up in front of the saloon, which was everybody's stopping-place, the men standing there eyed him as openly and as boldly as they would a caged curiosity. He was clad in a neat black suit, and his shoulders seemed trying to meet in front of his breast. His eyes were red, as from having shed tears, and his cheeks were hollow. But the citizens of Golddust Gulch attributed the inflamed condition of his eyes to the dust and wind, for they could not exactly comprehend how a man could weep. He made known that he had come out to hunt his fortune, staked out a claim, and went to work.

Barton Burrows was the tenderest tenderfoot that had ever struck a mining camp. He would take all sorts of rough treatment, and never resent anything. As a consequence, he was held in profound contempt by all the citizens, and his presence among them was simply borne, nothing else.

How it happened no one could tell, but soon it became rumored that he had suffered a great affliction in the near past. His wife and little girl had died of a disease which was epidemic in the south, and he had come out here to forget his sorrow in hard work. And when they heard this story which some stray wind blew to them, they remembered the red eyes and sunken cheeks of the tenderfoot, and some pitied him. But he was quiet as a woman, and slunk to and from his work without a word to any one. Two weeks after he came, Golddust Gulch was thrown into an uproar.

The barkeeper of the Jolly Boys was found dead in his bed that morning with his throat neatly cut; the strong box under his bed was rifled of its store of wealth, and pinned to the top of the bar with the very dagger which had done the deadly work was a scrap of white paper, on which was written in pencil: "Compliments of the tenderfoot."

The camp was wild with amazement and rage, but the dark hollows of the surrounding hills safely kept the man who had fled to them for shelter.

A few months went by, then the stage coach to Silver City was held up by a single man, and its passengers relieved of all valuables about their person. The man who committed this daring piece of devilment was masked, but Four-fingered Fred, the stage driver, stated that he was a tall man with drooping shoulders; very thin, and dressed in black. Not long after a mining boss was passing through to superintend the sinking of some new shafts. He was the only occupant of the stage, and though Four-fingered Fred swore roundly that he would never be caught napping again, his hands went up so quickly at the sharp command of the knight of the road, that his lines dropped. This time the passenger himself was confiscated, and only obtained his liberty by parting with five thousand dollars.

The citizens of Golddust Gulch were, alone, perhaps, all who knew the identity of this terror of the Silver City trail. Then they forgot their grudge against him in admiration of his boldness, and proudly proclaimed to every new comer that they had schooled Black Barton, the road agent.

How such news reached him will ever remain an impenetrable mystery, but Black Barton never failed to know beforehand when a person with money was to travel over the road where he operated. And such persons he in-

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 5.)

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variably took in charge, and held for ransom. The condition of affairs was getting deplorable, and there was no remedy. Traps were set, and snares were spread, but this man laughed at them all, and bided his own time to act.

One day the Silver City coach was late. A single-tree had snapped and a new one had to be made of some raw material, which the driver always took with him. Twilight came and they were still in the hills, the old vehicle, shaped much like a land terrapin, squeaking and whining over the bumpy road. Four-fingered Fred was getting nervous, for a lady and her little daughter were traveling with him that day, and he had caught the glimpse of a diamond on her finger as he helped her into the coach back at Mineville. Black Barton had been quiet for over three weeks, and——

"Stop your coach, friend Fred!"

Something like an oath came from the driver but he pulled up his horses and mechanically raised his hands, although this time the order had not been given.

"Suppose you let your horses rest awhile," continued the man in black, standing quietly by the head of the off leader, with his pistol levelled at the breast of the man on the box. "I believe it would be a humane act for me to lighten the load they have to pull, so I must ask you to come down and help the ladies out."

"How in the devil did you know——" burst out Fred, but the other man broke in.

"No profanity, please. Do as I bid you, then drive on to Silver City and spread the news."

Ten minutes later the empty coach was rattling towards its destination, and Black Barton with the mien and language of a gentleman, was telling his prisoners that they must accept his hospitality for a while; that they would be treated courteously and kindly, and that as soon as money for their release was forthcoming he would set them at liberty. The child clung, sobbing, to her mother and once, when she peeped up at the man before her, he caught a glimpse of her round gray eyes and his face paled, while the muscles about his mouth hardened.

The place whither Black Barton conducted his captives was a cave which he himself had hollowed out, and by natural and artificial means, hidden from the most searching eye. Here he gave them food and soft rugs upon which to sleep. The woman and child, worn with fright and fatigue, were soon asleep, the little one with its head close to its mother's breast. Then the man took down the lantern which was hanging from the roof, and noiselessly approaching the unconscious pair, held it so that its light fell full upon the girl. He knelt on the floor to look closer.

"Mary's face! *My* baby's face, to a line!" he gasped and shrank away in awe.

When he put the lantern back in place his hand was shaking. Then he lay down on the further side of the cave but not to sleep. Hour after hour he lay, watching that sleeping child four feet from him, and living in the past. In the middle of the night the little one moved and the man could see that her eyes were open. For fear of frightening her should she turn and find him awake, he closed his own. A moment later he heard a child's timid, supplicating voice. He looked in spite of his will, and beheld the little figure kneeling, with her face upturned and her tiny hands clasped in prayer.

"Dear Lord, take us away from this awful man, and give us to papa."

That was all. But Black Barton closed his eyes and shivered like a palsied man, while his lips unconsciously framed an "Amen."

In the morning when the mother woke, she found that a piece of paper had been slipped in her hand during the night. It bore these words:

"Follow the ravine until you come to the road, then wait for the Silver City stage."

And Black Barton was never seen again.

THE PLANET EARTH.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



WHAT was the beginning of it? Where did it come from? These are the questions which come to the scientist again and again, in these days of speculation.

We must go at once to the sun, a great ball of fire mist rotating in space. As it whirls, it throws off rings of fire mist, like the rings about our neighboring planet Saturn. These rings, freed from the holding force of their luminous parent, rotate about themselves and gradually assume a spherical shape, and revolve about the sun from which they came. Gradually as the fire mist cools a great molten globe is formed surrounded by an atmosphere which is heavy with carbonic acid and sulphuric acid, and covered with an ocean of water highly charged with chemicals.

Two forces are now at work solidifying this molten ball, first the gradual cooling on the outside by loss of heat which forms a solid crust, second the pressure of the outer crust which causes the interior to become solid and rigid, more rigid probably than steel.

But by the cooling of this great sphere contraction takes place, and as the solid crust contracts it is too large to fit the rigid core and it wrinkles, much as the skin on an apple wrinkles when it is baked. These great wrinkles emerge from the universal ocean and form the continental masses of the earth. As the cooling goes on smaller bendings and wrinkles form the mountain systems and plateaus. Gradually the heavier acids are absorbed and the ocean and atmosphere become what we find today upon the earth.

But now to return to the solid interior of the earth. We know that it must be very hot, for it has been proved that the temperature rises a degree to every fifty feet downward. Then it is not difficult to conclude that at fifty miles below the surface a temperature would be reached which is unknown upon the outside of the shell. At such a temperature everything would be in a state of fusion were it not for the pressure from without, which is so great that the particles of white hot matter are pressed and packed close together forming the solid core of the earth. Another interesting fact concerning this great furnace beneath our feet is its composition. It is thought that in the solid core we should find gold, silver, platinum and all the heavier elements in such abundance as we find clay, quartz and feldspar on the surface. This is explained by their weight, for as the molten mass of the earth cooled the heavier substances would sink below the lighter ones, which explains the fact that most of our rocks and sand contain a very large percentage of silica, alumina and carbon. Thus the gold and silver which we find in our mountains and rivers have been brought from a great depth in the earth by explosions and eruptions. If we could imagine ourselves living near the center of the earth brick houses would be as rare as golden palaces here while the ground would be paved with silver and platinum and a bit of common quartz would be a jewel fit for a king.

"The everlasting hills" have been talked of since the early days of poetry, yet nothing is more unstable than the mountains. No sooner does the land rise out of the sea and present its sloping surface and peaked summit to the light of the sun than the solar forces begin their work. The wind blows moisture in the form of clouds over it, rain falls upon it, wearing away its surface, percolating through crevices and dissolving many of its solid portions. In cold climates frost is an important factor in the erosion of the land. Water freezes in crevices and forces the particles farther apart. Glaciers wear off the mountain tops and sides and the ice on the shore plays a similar part with the cliff of the coast. Every drop of rain that falls gathers to itself a grain of soil which it carries away from the hill to the sea. Thus the rivers are not composed wholly of water but should be thought of as carrying also a load sometimes amounting to tons and tons of soil in a year. The swifter the rate of stream the larger the size



A DELTA.

of the material it moves, and the greater its capacity for tearing away. But as it reaches the lower land its load is deposited along the banks or in time of flood is spread out over the plain as in the Nile Valley. Sometimes a bank of the fine soil is deposited where the river current is arrested by the ocean waves and a delta plain like that of the Mississippi is formed. It is said that this great river extends its delta a mile in sixteen years.

But much of the detritus from the continents is deposited upon the ocean floor the finest material being carried farthest out forming clay beds, the sand being dropped upon the nearer shore and the gravel and larger material left high up on the land. Heat and pressure now begin their work again and in time beds of pudding stone, sandstone and slate are formed from the gravel, sand and clay. Because of the constantly added pressure due to the material deposited upon the ocean floor the continental masses are constantly rising and the coastline changes perceptibly in a thousand years. Thus as the solar forces, wind and rain, tear down the mountains a contra force is forcing up the continents because of the weight upon the sea floors.

But perhaps the most attractive force in world building is the volcanic force which acts swiftly and in so dramatic a manner that the whole world of to-day is attracted whenever it manifests itself. A volcano is not of necessity a mountain, although that is the popular notion. Any vent through which molten matter from the interior of the earth may flow is a volcano whether it builds up a mountain or not. The stream of lava may spread out in all directions forming a great lava plain like many of those in our western states or it may be forced suddenly from the interior in such large quantities that it builds up about the vent a mountain of eruptive material.

That there should be molten material in the interior seems contrary to our former statement that the earth's core is solid. It is not so however. Intermediate between the crust, which has been hardened by cooling, and the core, which has become solid through pressure, is a region which contains the elements in a state of fusion. By the bending of the crust to form continents and mountains, arches are formed leaving great spaces above the molten material. Water percolating through the rocks becomes heated and forms steam which after a time fills the spaces, tears apart the rocks above making for itself a way to the outer air and forming a vent through which the lava pours out upon the surface of the earth to be ground up and carried away to the sea by the surface waters.

Thus was the earth formed, thus is it being formed to-day! Before any living creature appeared these forces were at work as they are to-day. How many times our soil has been worked over from lava to slate and back again to clay we cannot tell. How many times the continents have risen and sunk again, dipping the crests of the Rockies or Himalayas in the ocean waves, no one can tell, but scientists tell us that not less than 20,000,000 and perhaps more than 100,000,000, years have passed since the earth began to cool.

XERXA.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



IT was a fearfully windy night. Col. Ingraham's yacht "Xerxa" was tossing and pitching on the stormy Mediterranean. In the cabin all was in commotion, for the Colonel's daughter—a mere infant born the summer previous on the yacht—was missing and the nurse could not be found.

Two boats hastily put ashore; in one was the captain and three of the crew, in the other the Colonel and his son, a lad of about eight years, with two of the Colonel's friends who at the time were cruising with him.

They had left Dardaine at dark; a few moments previous, so the general supposition was, in the confusion of starting the woman and child had been left ashore. The boat was searched again and again to no avail.

Long after noon the following day the Colonel returned utterly broken down under the strain, for not a trace of the missing ones could be found.

For the next four weeks they cruised up and down the coast while the Colonel ransacked the villages within a radius of fifteen miles and advertised. But I am inclined to believe to this day had enormous rewards been suggested, his daughter's whereabouts might have been learned. The child however, was too young to be identified so that the chances of her ever being found in that country were few.

The Colonel's hope was sustained by this one fact. Soon after the child's birth, to commemorate the event on the yacht she had with due ceremony been christened "Xerxa" and on her right ankle had been tattooed a small *X*. To one disinterested this was perhaps the only apparent difference between her and the score of infants large and small who were brought to the yacht daily in answer to the advertisement and each day the poor father grew more disheartened until finally he gave up in despair and set sail for home.

A few years later the Colonel died and his last request was, that after his son had been graduated from college he should spend a given proportion of the income left him in searching for his sister.

* * * * * *

Just between daylight and dark The Turkish Cafe was filled with loungers, some sipping the fragrant Mocha and others on divans smoking the choice *latakia* in long, jasmine-stemmed pipes.

At the farther side of the room on a couch—half obscured in smoke from a nargileh at his side—reclined a young man, in garb only a Turk.

He shook himself as though to be free from thoughts perplexing and his mind wandered for the thousandth time to one he had seen that day as every day since his arrival at Constantinople—calling herself Eurena, while she sold her flowers in front of a mosque by day and at night frequently visited the cafes in hopes of disposing of the remainder of her wares, and then went—whither no one knew and no one cared except—except—yes, he would confess he had seen her bare, sandaled feet and delicately draped, though shabby robe, and had loved, and now he must find her and win her and take her back home with him—But his sister—what of her? He could not dally all his life here, but just to appease his conscience he would leave a good sum with some poor fellow who would perhaps think it worth his while to search for the girl. Just now *his* whole heart was bent on—Hark! what was that? From the corridor came a few coarse words, then a mocking laugh and then a sharp cry, and all was still save for the hurrying footsteps.

Following the crowd, on the marble floor he saw the flower girl, Eurena, lying pale and motionless, and as he wedged his way through the crowd and lifted her in his arms, on her ankle, stretched from beneath her loose garb, he saw a tattooed letter. Xerxa was found but his love was dead.

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JOHN ROGERS.



JOHN ROGERS, the sculptor, was born in Salem, Mass., in 1829. He early evinced a taste for art, but his parents discouraged it, and he found no opportunity to gratify his desire till he was about twenty-seven years old, when, having been thrown out of employment as a machinist—he having learned that trade—he determined to turn his attention to his cherished plan. He accordingly went to Europe, studied awhile in Paris and Rome, but without the success he fondly expected. He returned to America thoroughly discouraged in his art. He sought a position in Chicago, securing that of City Surveyor. His mind recovered its tone, and he devoted his leisure hours to remodelling a group of figures for a ladies' fair, in behalf of some public charity. This group, "The Checker Players," when completed, attracted much attention, and encouraged him to persevere. Group after group came forth to public admiration, until he was enabled to open a studio in New York, in 1859. From that time his groups became deservedly popular, and now they are as familiar in American homes as household words.

Men, Women and Things.

CONDUCTED BY JENNIE MELVENE DAVIS.



We hear so much of wealthy Americans who have married into the peerage of England that the average American has the impression that the peerage is becoming Americanized. The titled classes number about twelve thousand and of these eighty are Americans. There are a large number of "colonials" in the ranks of England's nobility and prominent among these is the beautiful Viscountess Wolseley wife of the commander in chief of the British army. The Viscountess was Miss Erskine of Ottawa. Her celebrated husband was sent to Canada to take charge of the Red River Expedition. This was a brilliant success. Viscountess Wolseley is a very celebrated and scholarly woman with a distinct executive ability. Some of her balls have been the admiration and wonder of Dublin and London. She has the tact to bring the right people together at the right time and so thoroughly has she exercised her ability that her invitations are always eagerly sought. Her only daughter shares with her mother an intense interest and devotion to the army and is prominent in philanthropic and educational effort in behalf of "Tommy Atkins." The daughter will inherit the title on the death of her father, for by special act it may descend in the female line. The home of the Wolseleys in Euston Square is a perfect museum of curios collected in many lands. The Queen has recently offered Lord and Lady Wolseley apartments at Hampton Court Palace. Lady Wolseley is to have the use of them for life. All in all it is a brilliant and successful life that has developed from a girlhood in the little Canadian capital.

There are five or six illustrators in the country who command salaries that are fortunes. One of the best known of political caricaturists is Eugene Zimmerman or "Zim." He is acknowledged as the best "funny picture" man in the United States and it would be difficult to find any one who ever looks at a paper from whom "Zim" has not drawn a smile. His present home is at Horseheads, New York, but Switzerland was his birthplace. His parents removed to New Jersey and "Zim's" first wage earning was as assistant to a pastry cook. He says he gave the place a reputation for the weird designs that he made in "frosting" and for his dough images. People hesitated to cut them not wishing to destroy such curious bric-a-brac pastry. Finally he sought other occupation on the earnest solicitation of the baker. He tried sign painting and finally established himself in the business of sign making at Elmira, New York. One of his relatives brought some of his sketches to New York and Keppler of "Judge" gave him a place. His genius and industry have done the rest. It is said that when he is at work it seems to rain lines. His ideas are developed before he takes up the pen and his work is rapid and sure. A political cartoonist possesses a great power in this hurried age. The picture often enforces a truth or points a moral that strikes its way home when pages of argument would fail. To make a thing absurd is to kill its power for evil, so that a man like "Zim" holds a power hardly gauged. It is a great gift and one not to be estimated lightly.

Alexis E. Frye has an opportunity in educational work such as few men enjoy. He is the superintendent of the schools of Cuba, having volunteered for the position through interest in the work. Mr. Frye is a Harvard man who has been connected with the Normal School of Chicago and who has also been superintendent of schools in San Bernardino, Cal. Mr. Frye is also the author of a text book on geography. He is a man thoroughly familiar with the best modern methods in teaching, a broad theorist but a practical educator. He has the vision to see and the faith to realize what to others seem impossible tasks. To Americanize the schools of Cuba seemed a herculean work, but Mr. Frye's enthusiasm would not recognize difficulties He planned to bring two thousand Cuban teachers to the United States the past summer. They attended the session of the Harvard Summer School. The government gave them free transportation and $100,000 has been raised by private subscription to defray the expenses of the journey. They landed in Boston July 4th in time to witness the celebration of that day. Trips to neighboring historic places were taken and after the close of the summer school, New York, Washington, Chicago and Niagara Falls were visited. The impressions received will, it is believed, be of great service in Americanizing the Cuban teachers.

Jeannette L. Gilder is one of the most successful literary writers in this country. She is a woman of strong personality with a keen practical common-sense and intense devotion to her work. She has just won favor as a playwright through her version of QuoVadis. She was authorized by the writer Sienkiewiecz and by his translator and publishers to make a dramatization of the popular book. At about the time it was ready for production another version was brought out. They were both presented to the public the same night and the interest and rivalry have drawn crowded houses to see both versions of the play. Miss Gilder began her literary work at the age of fourteen. Her brother Richard Watson Gilder, the well-known writer and editor of the Century had commenced his literary work as a reporter on a Newark, N. J. paper. He soon started a morning paper on his own account. This paper known as the Morning Register suffered the fate of all attempts at local morning papers in the metropolitan district—it failed. Miss Gilder who was then about twenty years of age furnished several columns daily for the paper, both she and her brother often working fifteen hours a day. The experience gained was most useful. Miss Gilder obtained employment on the metropolitan press and slowly worked her way from proof reading to paragraph writing, editing telegraphic news, writing leaders, musical and dramatic criticism and book reviewing. For a number of years she was the New York correspondent of two Boston papers and of the Philadelphia Press as well as a contributor to the London Daily Mail. In 1881 with her brother Joseph Gilder she started the Critic. This literary monthly has been a great success. Miss Gilder has tried her hand at playwriting before and is also the author of some few books. She has the genius of indefatigable industry and thoroughness. Her writing is marked by a keen critical discrimination. There is an absence of "gush" and of attempt at striking writing that early pointed to the fact that critical writing might be her forte. It is as a critic rather than a creator that she has won her greatest successes. She is well known in the inner literary circles of New York where she always finds a warm welcome.

Mrs. Fletcher Webster Jewell who is at present living in Boston, has the honor of being the first American to volunteer as a nurse in the Boer war. In 1895 Mrs. Jewell was living in Johannesburg at the time of the Jameson raid. The women were sent out of the city when it became evident that an outbreak between the Boers and the Uitlanders was imminent. She refused to leave and after the raid acted as nurse to the thirty-five wounded Englishmen and the four Boers. Soon after she returned with her husband to this country and assisted in securing signers to the petition to release the American mining expert, John Hays Hammond. This petition she presented to "Oom Paul" and in time she had the satisfaction of knowing that it was granted. Mrs. Jewell will soon publish a novel that will be drawn largely from her South African experiences.

Wu-Ting-Fang, the Chinese minister to this country, is recognized as one of the ablest diplomats that the Orient has ever sent to America. He is a curious and careful student of our institutions and his comments are as frank and ingenuous as they are amusing. He has a keen, dry sort of wit that is almost Yankee in its penetration. He admires some of our institutions but is faithful to his belief in China. Occasionally his sense of humor is not keen enough to detect the American joke and he recently sent the information to his government that polygamy was on the increase in the United States, basing his statement on a gravely written article that depicted the members of a woman's club discussing the discouraging statistical fact that the feminine population exceeded the male and urging the adoption of polygamy as increasing their chance of marriage. Wu-Ting almost rivals his famous contemporary Li Hung Chang in the art of asking questions. He recently commented upon the injustice of our law that excluded Chinese laborers from the country at the same time that our press was expatiating upon the opportunities China offered Americans to make fortunes. "You may come to us and make money but our people may not come here to see you enjoy the wealth you have made in their native town." Wu Ting expressed the belief that the justice of the American people would lead them to repeal the law that they made during the periods when cheap labor was feared. Wu Ting is a man of fine education with a keen analytical mind. He is a polygamist in his own country, though he has but one wife in this country. She is fond of the ocean and has been a prominent figure on the board walk at Atlantic City. Her feet have been bound as is the custom of women of rank in her own land. For this reason she found the rolling chairs of great use and her chair followed by a Chinese attendant in native costume is always a center of interest. Wu Ting is a picturesque figure in his silk and satin brocades, with the curious thick soled silk shoes and the round brimless hat of China. He speaks excellent English and recently addressed the graduates of a Woman's Medical College. In his speech he expressed surprise that the medical profession had ever looked coldly upon the entrance of women to its ranks. He felt that the province of medicine was one peculiarly fitted to women. His little son attends the public school in Washington. His brightness is a source of great pride to his father. The little boy is a great favorite at the White House and his father says he is a born diplomat as he visits the White House oftener than his father. Wu Ting does not adopt Western dress but he does make the concession of cutting his finger nails. He has all the suavity of his race united to a natural courtesy that springs from the kindliness that makes him one of the most popular members of the diplomatic corps.



Zitkala-Sa is the strange musical name of a young Sioux Indian girl who is attracting much interest and attention by her beauty, her genius and her work. She lived in Dakota until she was nine years old. In a series of articles which she has written she describes her "Impressions of an Indian Childhood" and at the same time reveals a tragedy. She saw some of the Indians come home from Eastern schools and the longing to speak the white man's language, to know the white man's knowledge possessed her. She tells in unconsciously pathetic words how her mother seemed to comprehend this by the mother instinct and went out to wail by the graves of her ancestors. The longing grew in the heart of Zitkala-Sa and in time she found herself at a Friend's school in Indiana. From this school she went to Earlham college in the same state. She won a first prize in oratory and also a first prize in an interstate oratorical contest between several colleges. She taught for some time in the Carlyle Indian school but left this work to pursue the study of the violin in Boston. Her playing shows much talent while her writing receives the most favorable comment from critics. There is a frankness in her descriptions of the real thought and feeling of an Indian girl that is seldom found in this taciturn race. Her Life of an Indian Girl shows the mental change from the age she describes in her Indian Childhood. It throws much light on the disputed wisdom of Indian education. Zitkala-Sa is the most interesting representation of her race that has come within the observation of the literary and musical world and her career will be watched with interest.

Eugenie Bonnefois is one of the most interesting women in the world. Her small, bent figure is decorated with the red cross on a white ground, with the green and red ribbon, and with the purple ribbon of the French Academy, all given as recognitions of the great work of this French woman. In all her long life she has never slept in a bed. Her parents owned a mechanical museum on wheels and travelled from one country fair to another, now in Paris, now in the provinces, but always moving. Eugenie was born in the wagon and there she will probably die. Her class of people are called "foraines" in France, and there are hundreds of them who have followed the business of furnishing amusement at fairs for generations. When she was eighteen Eugenie Bonnefois taught herself to read and write. There were scores of children as ignorant as herself and she commenced to teach them as soon as she had learned a little. When her parents died they left her the museum and she drove it all over France. During the Franco-German war of '70 she served as a nurse and she received the recognition of the red cross. Then she went back to her wandering life, but with an earnest desire to better the condition of children who like herself were cut off from all opportunities for an education by the wandering life they led. She finally won the attention of those in authority and succeeded in establishing a travelling school in her wagon. Here the foraine children are instructed and finally receive a diploma. It costs about $1200 a year to support the school, and this sum Eugenie Bonnefois receives through private subscription. She gives them religious as well as secular instruction, and at Easter those who are prepared are confirmed in whatever church they may be near, for Mademoiselle Bonnefois and her work are known throughout France. Her face beams with kindly light. When asked if she ever became discouraged she answered, "Never; if one is to become discouraged in an undertaking it were better not to begin." The little wrinkled old woman has won recognition from all the best institutions in France. She is an officer of the French Academy; but best of all she has brought light and education to a class of people that were forgotten by all save her.

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THE STORY OF EXPANSION.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



THOMAS JEFFERSON.

THE history of the expansion of territory in this country has become of deep interest and the greatest importance to us all since the questions involved by the present growth of territory through the outcome of the Spanish war are now before the American people for judgment, having been adopted by both of the great parties as one of the (if not the paramount) greatest issues of the present contest. No person can rightly judge or intelligently consider these issues without knowing what our history in the question really is, and for that purpose COMFORT has prepared a brief review which will be presented without comment, so that readers of every party may read it.

Expansion is by no means a new question in America. In fact, in one form and another it has been considered by the voters of every generation and generally favorably. But in the present struggle it takes a new form because the expansion is no longer to take in simply adjacent territory, but reaches across the seas into other lands. It also opens up the vital question of how these newly-acquired islands are to be governed; whether as territories, which are sometimes to be states, with equal representation with the present states; or, as colonies having a local self government carried on under certain officers, such as Governors, representing and appointed by the central government at Washington.

As we have on other questions warned our readers, great care should be exercised in judging these important questions, and it must be remembered many of the sensational phrases and reports of parties and papers are coined and used as catchwords to capture votes among the unthinking. Much of the eloquence and many of the editorials which will come in this campaign will be only to catch votes. No matter what is said by politicians, the people of this country mean well and intend to do right, whether of one party or another; and we may be certain that in any event no harm shall in the end come to this country, which we all love, although we are fond of pretending that only about half of us do while the other half is supposed to be actively devising means to destroy it.

The story of expansion is interesting and will prove instructive to those who have never given it any consideration. It will be remembered that at the time of the discovery and settlement of America, Spain was the first power of the world, and her navies ruled the seas. Besides being the greatest naval power, she had the greatest wealth and resources of any of the civilized nations, and her commerce spread out through the then known civilized world into the distant lands occupied by barbarians.

It was through this leadership in commerce that her great fleets were sent into far-off seas in the way of trade, and upon the opening of the American continent, Spanish trading posts, forts and cities appeared on every hand. Gradually that nation was followed by others in the race of conquest, and the division of America, under what are now called zones of influence in trade, were well defined in the North American continent. The whole of South America was given over to the Spanish dominion, which stretched across the isthmus up through the present country called Mexico, and reaching up from the mouth of the Mississippi for its full length, was traced nearly to Hudson's Bay on the north. Besides the mouth of the Mississippi, she controlled the whole shore of the Gulf, comprising what is now the lower part of Alabama, and the whole of the state of Florida. Although the Spanish had touched the Pacific Ocean, their progress had not been as rapid on that side; and from a point about where San Francisco now is a line stretched in a circular way up toward the northern point of their dominions on the eastern side. Everything above this, comprising the Oregon territory as it was called, a large part of Canada and Alaska was then unexplored land.



PRESIDENT POLK.

By the peace of 1763, France had relinquished her claim to Canada, and the English held the whole of North America east of the Mississippi River with the exception of Florida as we have above written.

A few years after, the Revolutionary War broke out which was finally settled by the evacuation of the thirteen colonies by the British and the signing of the treaty of peace in Paris Sept. 3, 1783, which was negotiated on our part by Benjamin Franklin, John Jay and John Quincy Adams. The independent United States under this treaty extended from the Atlantic Coast to the Mississippi River; Florida, was given back by Great Britain to Spain, and Spain continued to hold the country west of the Mississippi, which naturally was but poorly defined, and went under the general name of the Louisiana Territory.

The early congresses and all the traditions of the united colonies which had become this independent country were against any idea of expanding the domains of the United States any further in any direction; but it must always be remembered in considering this great question that the circumstances were then so different and the country was so small and poor in population that the conditions under which the Constitution and earlier laws were enacted can hardly be duplicated at the present time.

SECRETARY W. H. SEWARD.

The remarkable progress in mechanical engineering, means of transportation, ways of communication, and modern conditions have so changed the whole aspect of affairs that we can scarcely place ourselves in mental touch with the condition of the people of that day and generation. Taking a letter as an ordinary example, and the transportation of the mail represents progress in all other lines of communication, at the time of the treaty of peace in 1783 it took a letter as long to go from Boston to Philadelphia, which was the seat of government, as it would now require across the Atlantic Ocean. A letter sent from Portland, Maine, at that time, to any of the settlements in Georgia, which was then the extreme south, would have taken as long to reach its destination as it would now take to circle the entire globe. It was fully as many days between Boston and New York by ordinary travel, as it is now hours by railroad. This does not take into consideration the electric telegraph and cables, which have brought the distant nations within hourly communication and closer connection than then existed between the most neighboring cities in this country.

The next twenty years saw great revolutions in the world, and especially among the European governments where war and conquest and revolution followed each other with startling rapidity. This brought about a period of depression in Spain, and taking advantage of the same her harassed colonies in various parts of South America set themselves up, one after another, as independent republics. While this period of depression was coming on, Napoleon was in the height of his power. Almost involved in war with him, Spain began to look about for a customer for her colony in North America. By a treaty with Napoleon in 1801, this vast tract was given to France, as Bonaparte then had the intention of placing a great colony there to prevent the growth of the United States to the westward, and control the Mississippi river, whose magnificent possibilities were evident to him. But two years later, seeing that he was about to have a war with Great Britain, and knowing that the supremacy of the British fleet could easily isolate any force which he might have in this possession and keep away all relief, he was brought to open negotiations with President Jefferson with a view to selling this tract of land to America.

Nothing can be more ironical than the fact that the present democratic party is pledged against expansion, and deprecates anything of the kind, while at the same time claiming Thomas Jefferson as the father of that party. Jefferson was one of the first great American statesmen, and a most remarkable man. He was an accomplished scholar, reading several languages with ease, and deeply versed in science and philosophy. He was, like all Virginians, a great enthusiast in out-of-door sports, and was very punctual in all his habits, with an honest dislike for ceremony or parade. He was a foremost leader in social and legislative reforms, devised our decimal currency, wrote the Declaration of Independence, and founded many of the doctrines which today are the foundations of the republic, and which are acknowledged by both parties as the corner stones of the edifice.

No person, with the possible exception of Washington, in all the political history of America was in his day so great a subject of vituperation and abuse as Jefferson. He was thoroughly misunderstood by a large portion of the citizens, and was represented as a rank atheist and a political adventurer.

Mr. Blaine, in his marvelous work, says: "It seems scarcely credible that the acquisition of Louisiana by Jefferson was denounced with a bitterness surpassing the partisan rancor with which later generations have been familiar. No abuse was too malignant, no epithet too coarse, no imprecation too savage to be implied by the assailants of the great philosophic statesman who laid so broad and deep the foundations of his country's growth and culture."

Fortunately for the United States, the patriotic and far seeing Jefferson was energetic in acquiring the title to this valuable domain, and equally energetic about sustaining our rights after its purchase in 1803 for the small sum of $15,000,000, a cost so small that the total sum expended for the entire territory does not equal the revenue which has been obtained from its soil in a single month. The country thus acquired forms today the states of Louisiana, Arkansas, Missouri, Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, Minnesota west of the Mississippi, Colorado north of the Arkansas, Indian Territory, Dakota, Wyoming and Montana.

Under this treaty Texas was included in the transfer, but the Oregon country was not.

The next expansion of the United States occurred in 1819 when after constant trouble in regard to the boundaries of Louisiana and the great dissatisfaction caused in Spain by Bonaparte ceding Louisiana to the United States, trouble broke out which caused Gen. Jackson, afterwards the president of this country, to march across the line and capture Pensacola. This invasion caused so much trouble that a treaty was negotiated in 1819 by which the whole of Florida was ceded to Spain, Texas was receded to Spain also, while other portions of the treaty definitely stated the exact boundaries of the northern portion of the Spanish colonies.

The country did not again expand until in 1845. After the war of revolution in Texas against Mexico, and having gained her independence, the whole state was annexed by Act of Congress to the United States which, with other differences, brought on hostilities and finally war was declared with Mexico which led to our invasion of that country during the administration of President Polk, with many American victories and the subjugation of that country. By the Mexican war was added to the United States an enormous territory equal in area to Germany, France and Spain added together, that which includes the whole of California and the adjacent states. In the meantime, all the country over which the American dominion had been extended was gradually, and at times rapidly, growing in population and wealth. Treaties between the United States and Great Britain, definitely fixing the northeastern and northern boundaries of the United States, gave to America in 1846 what was then known as the Oregon country, and which now comprises the states of Oregon and Washington.



PRESIDENT U. S. GRANT.

In 1853, a strip of territory was ceded by Mexico for a monetary equivalent, and is known as the Gadsden Purchase. This was to definitely locate the northern boundary of Mexico and to terminate the disputed possession of a strip of neutral ground lying between Mexico and the cession of 1848.



PRESIDENT MCKINLEY.

The expansion of our territory led to many acrimonious debates in Congress relative to slavery within the new possessions, which finally culminated in the War of the Rebellion in 1861. In 1867 when U. S. Grant was President, Wm. H. Seward, then Secretary of State, completed the purchase of Alaska from the empire of Russia, and in October of that year the vast territory, valuable for furs, fisheries, timber and metals, was bought for the sum of $7,000,000 against the protests of all those who were opposed to Gen. Grant. Without speaking further of the value of Alaska, it is only right to call attention to the fact that the present amount of gold that is brought out from this territory is fully three times as large annually as the amount paid for the whole territory, and this does not in any way consider any of the other assets.

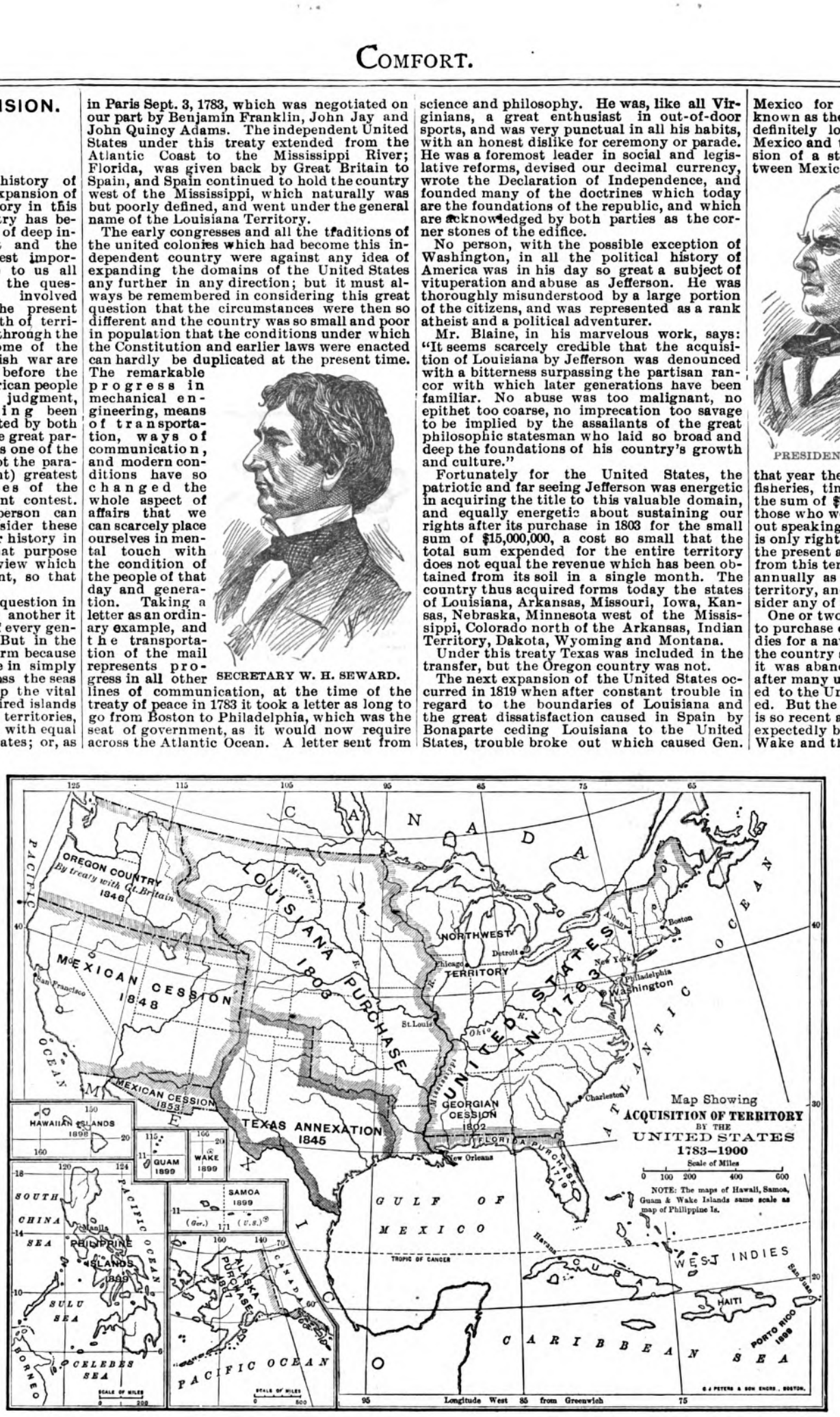
One or two attempts were made at later dates to purchase one of the islands in the West Indies for a naval station, but the sentiment of the country seemed to be against the same, and it was abandoned. It was not until Hawaii, after many ups and downs, finally was annexed to the United States that we again expanded. But the late Spanish-American war, which is so recent as to need no present allusions, unexpectedly brought to us Porto Rico, Guam, Wake and the Philippines through the treaty of peace at Paris in 1899, and today the question of colonies is the one foremost in the minds of many of the people. It being a matter of politics, we will not enter into it at the present time, but let every person draw his own conclusions from the evidence that he may have on either side. But it is well to note in closing that the history of expansion has been practically for 100 years, and there has never been a single act or effort to expand the United States but that it has been coarsely and rudely assailed as imperialism or some similar name, and looked upon as the downfall of the American republic.

By looking at the map accompanying this article the reader will see that COMFORT has explained the acquisition of all the territory depicted therein, excepting the Oregon country. The *status* of the 299,000 square miles of territory is somewhat different from the others and our claims to this territory rested on somewhat different and disputed grounds which were not fully agreed to until our treaty with Great Britain in 1846. Our claim to the Oregon territory was as follows:

Captain Gray, in 1792, discovered the mouth of the Columbia River and sailed up that river and laid claim to the unknown country of Oregon in the United States of America, and that has always been the foundation of our claim to the Oregon country—its discovery by Captain Gray in 1792. Oregon is no part of our Louisiana purchase, and the maps of the United States, now issued by the Land Office, show upon their face that Oregon was no part of the territory we purchased from France in 1803. Our title to Oregon depends, first, upon the discovery of the mouth of the Columbia River by Captain Gray in 1792. It is a law of nations that any country that discovers and occupies the mouth of a river thereby becomes entitled to all the unoccupied territory watered by that river.

The next ground of our title to Oregon was the treaty of 1819 with Spain, whereby Spain, at the time she ceded Florida to the United States, quitclaimed to the United States all of that territory north of what was then called Upper California.

From a poor, struggling, weak republic one hundred years ago, the United States has expanded into one of the largest countries in the world, and today has more wealth per capita than any nation in the world. Notwithstanding the doleful prophecies which have always been made, the course of expansion in the United States has been attended with equal prosperity; and not only this, but notwithstanding the prophecies that the republic must fall, America today stands among the great powers, if not the leading nation of the entire civilized world. What will be the verdict of the American people relative to the holding of distant lands which we have taken remains to be seen in the result of the general election in November.



MAP SHOWING EXPANSION OF UNITED STATES TERRITORY.

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WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



THE fashion of autograph collecting has been revived, but in a manner greatly modified. The collectors of the present day do not preserve the handwritings of their friends in books, but show an utter disregard for conventionalities and "mount" the signatures in ways which would have been quite undreamed of by their predecessors, and would perhaps have been thought a little shocking. The college girl is one of the most enthusiastic of the several classes of collectors, and her methods of preserving the autographs are perhaps the most unique. For the class autographs she prepares one or more pairs of window curtains of white muslin, and over the surface of each curtain, at all sorts of irregular distances and angles, she has her classmates write their names. After the graduating exercises have become a thing of the past, no more delightful occupation for the summer days at home could be devised than that of outlining these names with the college colors in silks, and no more constant and attractive reminder of college days could be secured than these same curtains hung at the windows of her room.

But the class curtains are not all. The society pillow is held in perhaps even greater esteem. The society colors are used for the foundation of the pillow cover, and the names of those who make up the local chapter are written here and there upon its surface. The center space alone is reserved, and here the society emblem is embroidered. The pillow thus becomes a "thing of beauty" as well as a "joy forever"; an heirloom to be handed down to future generations, especially should some of the names upon it become widely known in the years to come. The signatures are of course outlined with heavy Asiatic silks in some of the society colors.

Often there is a still more intimate circle of close friends, restricted to the favored number who are invited to our college girl's private "spreads." And the autographs of this inner circle are also appropriately preserved. One more formal "spread" than usual is served, this time upon a table over which a luncheon cloth is laid. When the feast has been discussed and cleared, the guests write their names upon the cloth, just as they sit about the table, and another cherished memento of college life has been secured. These names are afterward outlined in white linen, or colored Asiatic silks as preferred.

One enterprising college girl who had a "friend at court," secured the autographs of the college faculty in a similar manner. There was to be a faculty dinner, and the hostess was her friend. She asked permission to furnish the tablecloth to be used on this occasion, and the favor was granted. It is needless to say that a handsome cloth was sent, and the hostess secured for her the autographs of the entire faculty after the courses of the dinner had been removed.

The college girl is not alone in her pursuit of autographs. Society women who entertain distinguished guests are preserving their autographs upon the table linen, either the cloth or sometimes upon the napkins. In either case the souvenirs thus secured are unique and full of interest to succeeding guests as well as to their possessor.

The dainty French ribbon work is being revived by embroiderers and seems likely to take prominent rank in decorative needlework. The work is exquisite and artistic when properly carried out. It should be employed however only upon rich fabrics of delicate shades. This style of work was admired by Marie Antoinette and flourished during her reign. It is sometimes called rococo embroidery. The work is done with narrow ribbons used in connection with embroidery silks, although the silks play a minor part in the design. The patterns are of delicate flower sprays, sometimes combined with scrolls and ribbon garlands. Small flowers are chosen for the designs, such as daisies, forget-me-nots, arbutus and occasionally diminutive roses. The petals of the flowers and the leaves are worked with the ribbon, one width forming a petal or a narrow leaf. The roses are made full by gathering one edge of the ribbon and sewing it to the foundation in a narrowing circle, finishing at the center.

The ribbon used is of French manufacture, narrower than the baby ribbon, and finished without a corded edge. It comes in plain and in shaded tints. The pink, blue and green shaded, and the plain white, are the selection usually made. The ribbon is carried in a crewel needle having a large oval eye through which it may be easily threaded. The point of the needle should be sharp, and only a short length of ribbon is threaded in at one time. As it is drawn through the fabric this is quite essential, as a long piece would become mussed before it could be used.

The fabric upon which the design has been stamped should be stretched smoothly over hoops before the work is begun.

To work, bring the ribbon through from the underside at the tip of the petal or leaf, and push down at the center or stem. A stilletto will be found useful to punch a small hole through the fabric before the needle is drawn through, as by this means the ribbon is less mussed. If however your needle is large this will not always be necessary. Hold the ribbon in place with your thumb while the length is being drawn through, to prevent its becoming twisted. Whenever the ribbon is cut, or at the beginning of work, it will be necessary to catch the end of the ribbon to the underside of the fabric with a few stitches taken with sewing silk of the same shade.

The centers of the flowers are finished with a French knot or a cluster of knots made with Caspian floss. The stems are worked as in embroidery with Asiatic filo in satin stitch. Sometimes the leaves are also worked with the filo, leaving only the flowers to be done in the ribbon. If scrolls form a part of the design they should be worked with long and short stitch in Asiatic filo of a delicate shade to harmonize with the colors of the flowers, or they may be worked solid in Kensington stitch. In making double flowers such as daisies, work the outer row of petals first, and when the inner row is reached leave the ribbon somewhat loose to form a loop or puff, giving the flower a raised effect. This style of work is employed upon the richest pillow covers, glove and handkerchief cases, picture frames, pin cushion covers, and screens, and indeed wherever richly decorative effects are appropriate.

The church fair, the donation party, the singing school and "Miss Jarley" have played their part with such persistency that even to the most ardent charity worker the very idea of any of them is odious. During the past winter some clever women originated an "Antique Sale," and it is a benefit to both parties—those who give and those who buy.

In every household there are always articles of which the owner is tired or which the receding tide of a former fashion has left stranded. Things too good to give away indiscriminately, yet not good enough to give at first hand, have at last a mission. A call is put in the local papers, and all persons interested in the particular charity are invited to contribute old furniture, pictures, books, bric-a-brac, jewelry, china, silver, toys, and even clothes.

All articles should be sent two or three days in advance to the hall where the sale is to be held. There they are sorted, ticketed plainly with the price and arranged in an attractive manner.



AN INTERESTING STUDY.

The various articles should be displayed in classes. The furniture should be arranged attractively and can be presided over by "Little Nell and her Grandfather." The clothes look best on lines, and at a particular sale there were five suits of dress clothes, which, although not in the latest style, were in good condition and brought a fair proportion of their cost price, three of them being bought by students.

The jewelry was displayed in a booth, the table of which was covered with black velveteen; there were sets of gold and silver filigree, cameos and mosaics, and somebody not knowing or not caring for the latest fad had sent quite a variety of pink coral. It was snapped up in a trice. The children's toys, many marked as low as a penny, were in great demand, and when it was noised abroad that such treasures as a "horse with real hair on him," could be had for almost nothing, there was a bargain trade till the table was cleared.

It was at the bric-a-brac table that the most beautiful objects were grouped, and many were the jokes played. "Just see what a pretty inkstand I have bought," said one sister to another. The other laughingly replied, "You paid more than that for it two years ago I fancy." "What do you mean?" was the query. "Why you gave it to me for Christmas two years ago and I never could find a place where it fitted." Everything that was sent was sold, the few articles remaining at the end of the second day were auctioned. Somebody sent a quantity of curious deeds, with the great, round seal of the State of New York attached. These were eagerly bought by people making collections, as were Cuban relics, etc., that soldier boys sent in. A collection of stamps made by a boy who had since outgrown it was the object of such eager competition that it was finally sold at auction and brought a round sum.

The chief merit of one of these sales is that the only labor is the collecting and selling, and the days of toil spent in making aprons and embroideries which no one wants can be cheerfully omitted.

ANCIENT CALENDAR.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



THE fourteenth of September is called Holy Cross Day and is a festival in the Roman Catholic church. That it was the custom to go nutting on this day is indicated by some lines from an old play:—

"This day, they say, is called Holy-Rood Day
And all the youth are now a nutting gone."

Michælmas falls on the twenty-ninth of September and at this season it is customary to hold elections in England. The origin of this custom is obscure as is also that of having roast goose for dinner on this day. There is an old saying that "if you eat goose on Michælmas Day you will never want for money the year round." It is in reference to this custom that Churchill says:

"September, when by custom, right divine,
Geese are ordained to bleed at Michæl's shrine."

The season has also its weather proverb: "So many days old the moon is on Michælmas Day so many floods after."

A divination much practiced by English maidens at this time is to gather crab apples, cut in them the initials of their lovers and store them in an attic. That which is found in the best state of preservation on St. Michæl's Day represents the strongest attachment.

A STITCH IN TIME SAVES NINE.

Our Spring overhauling of stock shows a few hundred cards of **Darning Cotton** on hand, 48 yds. on each card, several shades: tan, black, white, drab, etc. One card, 3c.; four cards, 10c., all mailing charges paid by us. COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

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Place your finger on your pulse and see if your heart beats regularly and steadily. **If there is a single skipping or irregularity of the beats, your heart is weak or diseased,** and there is no telling how soon it will stop beating altogether. Heart troubles, dangerous as they are, can be instantly recognized by all. No doctor can tell better than you if your heart is out of order. But remember that irregular or skipping beats is **only one symptom,** and in many cases is not found. Any of the following are just as positive and sure:—

Symptoms of Heart Trouble.

Fluttering, Palpitation, Shortness of Breath, Tenderness, Numbness or Pain in the Left Side, Arm or Under the Shoulder Blade; Fainting Spells, Dizziness, Hungry or Weak Spells; Spots Before the Eyes; Sudden Starting in Sleep, Dreaming, Nightmare, Choking Sensation in Throat; Oppressed Feeling in Chest; Cold Hands and Feet; Painful to Lie on Left Side; Dropsy, Swelling of the Feet or Ankles (one of the surest signs), **Neuralgia Around the Heart.** Persons having even **one** of these symptoms should not delay treatment a single day.

Medicine Free to All. If you have been treating yourself for stomach, lung, kidney or nervous disease, and have failed to find a cure, the chances are 9 in 10 that **your trouble is in your heart.** Hundreds of such cases are found every year. I want you to send me your name and address at once, so I can send to you for trial a box of my celebrated Heart Tablets **absolutely free of charge,** by mail, prepaid. Don't fail to write me if you have a single one of the above symptoms. I can cure you beyond any question, and will send the free tablets to prove it to you personally. Delays are dangerous. Inclose stamp for postage.

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SPECIAL OFFER. Send us a club of five yearly subscribers to this paper at 25 cents each, and we will send you one of these rifles free as a premium, all charges paid. Address NATIONAL FARMER, Augusta, Maine.

A GENEROUS OFFER

George B. Wright Discovers a Cure for Lost Manhood and Sends It Free to Every Sufferer Who Will Write for it.

Gratitude is one of the noblest impulses of the human heart and in few instances has this fine quality been so conspicuously exemplified as in the case of George B. Wright of Marshall.

Mr. Wright is a merchant and well known citizen of Marshall, Mich., who was permanently cured of lost manhood and nervous debility after declining health for years. He now devotes his life to helping other men who suffer as he once suffered. Mr. Wright offers to send the medical prescription that effected a cure in his case to every reader of COMFORT who is suffering to-day as he suffered. All who will drop him a letter asking for a copy of the prescription will receive it by return mail free of charge.

The following editorial by A. N. Tally, M. D., regarding Mr. Wright's prescription for lost manhood appeared in the December issue of the United States Health Reports, published at Washington, D. C.

We, as the highest American authority on all matters of health, sanitation and hygiene, are constantly receiving letters of inquiry about a reliable cure for lost strength in men.

Therefore we have ordered an investigation to be made into the subject and our medical staff found there were many so-called cures on the market, but that many were worthless and some actually harmful. Therefore when we came upon the prescription furnished free by George B. Wright, a merchant of Marshall, Mich., we instituted a most thorough laboratory examination and found that its wonderful efficacy depended upon its being exactly compounded according to proper chemical requirements, in order to establish the proper chemical actions and reactions in the human system, and that it should especially, and above all, contain each and every ingredient named in the prescription, otherwise it would be quite inactive and worthless.

Properly mixed and containing everything called for in the prescription, its effect upon the nerve centers is truly wonderful and its nerve tonic properties easily surpassed all ordinary methods of medication.

Among the benefactors of the race may be mentioned the said George B. Wright, inasmuch that he gives this grand discovery free to all who write for it.

Taken according to directions it builds up the weak and restores to full size and vigor the nerve muscles. It brings hope and cheer and lifts up the discouraged man so that he once more enjoys the beauties of nature and the pleasures of life. Failure in business and love surely falls upon him who is weakened physically and mentally, and this sad condition is at once relieved and a new man made of him who uses this prescription.

Therefore, upon the highly favorable report of our medical staff we extend to George B. Wright's prescription for lost manhood the full editorial and official indorsement of the United States health reports. As certain as wound leaves a scar, and as sure as effect follows cause, do men live to repent their follies and indiscretions in weakness and suffering. The tortured sufferer may bear no telltale marks of ruin upon his face to betray his lost manhood. He goes to his grave a human wreck, and never tells of his sufferings for fear of shame. Such mental anguish at times drives him to the verge of desperation, and he is easy prey for those vultures in human form—quack doctors—who hold out alluring hopes of cure only to disappoint, and after robbing him of his money, plunge him into absolute despair.

No one can appreciate the horrors of lost manhood except he who has suffered them. No one can help such sufferers except he who knows a cure and has himself been restored to full manhood. A notable cure of lost manhood in an extreme case was effected in the person of George B. Wright, a music dealer and well known citizen of Marshall, Mich. Mr. Wright for years suffered the agony of lost vital power. He saw his physical power go from him as the result of insidious disease, until he was reduced to a condition of senility, and the best doctors in the country gave him up to die.

Like many others, he tried the various remedies offered by specialists for the treatment of weaknesses peculiar to men, and it was this experience that drove him to a little study and research for his own benefit.

He asserts that his ten years' suffering, both mentally and physically, was turned to unbounded joy in a single night through a rare combination of medicines that literally made him young again. It is the prescription of this discovery that his enthusiasm leads him to offer free to any man, young or old, who feels that his animation or the fire of ambition has left him and needs something that will brace him up and enable him to be prepared for any undertaking which may present itself.

There is no question but what in his individual case the results were just as described, and it seems quite probable that any man who believes himself to be weak may profit by sending for this free prescription. Many people wonder how he can afford to send this prescription free, but it costs him little to do so and he feels a philanthropic interest in giving weak men an opportunity to cure themselves.

A request to G. B. Wright, music dealer, Box No. 770 Marshall, Mich., for his free prescription, will be promptly and privately complied with by return mail.

OUR SPONGE INDUSTRY.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



FLORIDA is the only part of the United States that produces sponges having commercial value. They are found on both its eastern and western coasts, but are far more abundant on the latter, owing to the equable temperature and moderate depth of the water, and the comparative absence of fierce hurricanes.

The sponge grounds of the Gulf of Mexico extend from the Florida reefs to St. Marks, and for a distance of fifteen to twenty miles from shore. The best sponges in color, texture and size are indigenous to deep water, and as these command the highest prices in all markets, the sponging vessels are often at work for days together out of sight of land.

Sponges are known by various names, such as the sheep's wool, the grass, the yellow, the velvet, and others; but only the first three have any commercial value, and of these the sheep's wool is by far the best, being of a soft, yielding texture and very durable. It is well adapted for toilet, surgical, and general hospital purposes.

Sponge buyers pay from $1.50 to $2.50 a bunch for this variety at the kraals, while they only give from 40 to 75 cents a bunch for the grass, and from 15 to 20 cents for the yellow sponge.

It is only of late that the grass sponge has had any commercial value, but many vessels pull it now when the sheep's wool is scarce, as London has recently become a good market for it.

The yellow sponge is used only for the coarsest kind of work, and is scarcely considered worthy of attention by the crews of sponging vessels. It is very abundant, owing to the fact that it has rarely been disturbed. The sheep's wool variety has been getting scarce of late years, and not enough of it can be procured now to supply half the demand for it. This scarcity seems natural enough when we consider that about 200 vessels and over a thousand men have been gathering it for nearly forty years, and making no effort to plant new beds.

The sponge business was begun about the year 1858 in Key West, and has been gradually increasing in importance until it may now be deemed one of the most valuable of our maritime industries.

The first catches of sponges were made along the Florida reefs in small boats, and from this petty beginning the industry has expanded until now it gives employment to about 2,000 people, and keeps a handsome fleet of nearly 200 vessels constantly cruising along the eastern shores of the Gulf of Mexico.

The vessels are well built, staunch and fast sailors, and equal to the best "mackerel men" of New England in equipment. They are supplied with the best of provisions in most generous quantities, and the crews are treated with great consideration.

The sponging vessels owned in Key West may be divided into two classes, the first being the reef fleet, which is composed of small craft that rarely go far from shore, doing most of their work along the Florida reefs; and the second being the main fleet, which includes all the large vessels capable of going on long cruises.

The vessels of this fleet carry crews numbering from seven to eleven men each, and are fitted out with the most modern implements. They carry provisions enough to last them two months, and at the end of that time they return home, sell their catch, and, after being refitted, start out again. Their cruising grounds extend from Anclote Key to St. Marks, and they work these faithfully, every sponge bank being carefully examined through the water glasses carried in the dinghys. The crews are divided into "hookers" and "scullers." The former lie breast down on the bows of the boats, and scan the bottom through the water glass, which is merely a piece of glass inserted in the bottom of a bucket.

In noticing a valuable piece of sponge the "hooker" directs the "sculler" how to move the boat so as to get it in the most convenient position, then insert his pole, armed with three iron claws, under the treasure, and by a quick, vigorous turn of the wrist brings it aboard.

The "hooker" is considered of more importance than the "sculler" as he must have greater experience, in order to tell the character of a sponge in all depths of water. Each boat has a "sculler" and "hooker," and when both are equally expert they take turns in "hooking."

As fast as a dinghey gets a load it hastens to the vessel and after discharging its cargo hurries back to the finishing grounds.

The cook has charge of the vessel during the absence of the boats, and he keeps as near them as he can, so that he experiences little difficulty in picking them up when the men want to go aboard for meals or to deliver their catch. The men are awake by dawn, and at work as soon as it is light enough for them to see what to do.

The crews are mainly composed of natives of the Bahamas, both black and white; though many of the captains belong to the mainland. The Bahamians are said to make the best sailors, as they are obedient, industrious, accustomed to the sea from childhood, and content with small earnings.

They are shipped by the "trips" of eight weeks, and before starting out usually receive an advance varying from ten dollars to twenty and any clothing they require. If married, their families are supported by the owners of the vessels during their absence, no money being called for until the trip is completed. If that is successful, the men may settle their accounts; if not, the shipowner must bear all losses, as he has no redress if they refuse to pay him.

The vessels run into port every Saturday, when they work on the sponge grounds, deposit their catch in kraals, which are mere inclosures of stakes driven into shallow water near the land, and leave it there for a week to soak.

They start off for the sponge grounds again early Monday morning, and on their return the following Saturday with another load they place it in the kraals and the crew devote most of the day to cleaning the catch of the previous week, by striking each piece on the palm of the hand with a short stick until all the refuse is beaten out.

Some of the crew then run a stout cord through pieces of about equal size and quality and throw them in piles on the land to dry, while there they are guarded by two watchmen, who are paid by the entire fleet, each crew paying its pro rata.

The sponges are sometimes sold to wholesale buyers at the kraals, but are generally taken to the home port, placed on a wharf for inspection, and sold to the highest bidder.

The bids are made on slips of paper, handed to the captain of the vessel, and he decides which he shall accept or whether he will accept any, as he and not the shipowner has sole charge of the selling, because he represents the crew.

When the sponges are bought by the representative of a wholesale house they are taken to his warehouse, given over to the care of a number of men called "clippers," who clip off all the ragged ends and worthless parts, and give them the trim appearance they bear in the drug stores.

They are taken from the clipping into the packing room, where they are pressed into bales weighing from twenty to eighty pounds, the former being the usual weight of a bale of sheep's wool, and the latter of a bale of grass sponge. Yellow sponge is usually packed in forty pound bales.

After being tightly sewn in burlap, the sponges are shipped to their destination by steamer lines if possible. The clippers receive $1.50 and the packers $2 a day. Sheep shears are used for clipping the sponges.

It is estimated that there are nearly three-quarters of a million dollars invested in the sponge industry and that the annual value of the sponges taken vary from $300,000 to $1,000,000, as much depends on the character of the weather, the clearness of the water, and the abundance of the material.

The quantity of high-grade sponges secured is never enough to meet the demand, a fact that may be inferred from the reports of the custom house, which show that the United States imported sponges to the value $5,503,203 during the years '87—94. The exports for the same time amounted to only $281,747, but these figures will soon be greatly increased if England continues to be a market for our grass sponge.

TARPON FISHING.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



THINK of catching a herring weighing one hundred and fifty pounds! Think of catching this giant with a rod and reel! This sounds like a fish story indeed, but it is a fact. The herring referred to is not the variety that we see smoked in the markets, but a big Southern brother, the tarpon.

This fish belongs to the herring family, so the authorities tell us. It grows to a length of five to seven feet and weighs from seventy-five to one hundred and eighty pounds. It is a beautifully proportioned fish, with a light green back and with very large silvery scales on its sides. While feeding it frequently comes to the top of the water and then disappears again with a kind of puffing noise.

This king of all game fish, as it is frequently called by enthusiastic anglers, is found in the lagoons of western Florida, off the Gulf of Mexico.

The winter season is the best time to fish, though there is that delightful (or otherwise) uncertainty about tarpon fishing that makes the unlucky angler wonder whether, after all, any other season or any other day is not more favorable than the one he has chosen.

We will take it for granted that we are not unlucky anglers and so start for a day's tarpon fishing.

An early start is necessary and a coat will be needed, for winter mornings, even in Florida, are apt to be raw and chilly. A guide is also necessary and every guide has positive information of a place where tarpon are sure to be found—and known only to himself. No two guides agree as to the location of these places, which is perhaps just as well for the comfort of rival parties of anglers. Each guide also is supplied with a large stock of fish stories that would put Ananias himself to shame, but they serve to pass away the time while we wait for the tarpon to bite.

The length of time is an unknown quantity. Perhaps we wait all day and catch nothing—this more frequently happens than otherwise.

When the tarpon does bite, however, he means business. He takes the bait gently and swims off quietly until he feels the pull of the line. Then off he darts like a shot, while the line whizzes through the reel, and springs clear out of the water, shaking his head furiously and sometimes turning a complete somersault. This is the dangerous time for the angler, for if he does not lose his fish on the first jump the line may become entangled around its body and so be broken. The guide, meanwhile, follows the motions of the fish and pushes the boat around with a word of advice now and then. Some anglers let the guide handle the fish at first, but no true sportsman would do this, the fascination of the fight is too strong. After the first jump the tarpon settles down to business. Jumps follow one another in quick succession and the great fish darts here and there, now away from the boat, now towards it. Should the angler relax his attention for an instant, should he allow the fish any slack line, his victim is free, his efforts are lost. At length, however, the tarpon becomes tired—the steady strain on his mouth has its effect—the rushes are shorter, the jumps not so frequent and finally the fish is worked near the boat, fighting for life every inch of the way. Finally when near enough the guide kills it with a gaff.

A good angler can land a tarpon in half an hour, but it is a half hour of steady work—every muscle tense, every nerve strained. Three or four such fish and a man is ready to go home to supper, though on good days some anglers have caught eight or nine. Usually, however, if a man catches one he feels the day well spent—especially if it be his first one.

Unfortunately the tarpon is not esteemed as a food fish, so that those that are not mounted by fishermen as trophies are usually given to the farmers to use for fertilizer.

Origin of The District of Columbia.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



FAR back in our history the story opens—back to the close of the American Revolution, when the seat of the Federal Government was in Philadelphia. There were many unpaid soldiers at that time, for the expenses of the war had been extremely heavy, and the country had much money yet to pay out besides that due to her soldiers. But the men, many of them uneducated and unreasonable, could not understand the delay, and so clamored for their pay, and raised such a disturbance around the old Statehouse in Philadelphia that Congress came to the conclusion that it was in need of a city and a district which should belong exclusively to the United States, for the home of its Government, and for the transaction of its affairs. Accordingly, they caused it to be known that they were open to offers of land for such a purpose, and from 1787 to 1790 they received offers and suggestions, and talked, argued, and even wrangled over the matter. New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Trenton, Harrisburg, and many other places, urged their claims for being made the capital city, and for a long time it seemed impossible to make a selection. Maryland and Virginia both offered ground for the foundation of a new Federal District; many votes were taken, and at last an act was adopted by Congress which was approved by the President in July, 1790, giving to Washington himself the sole power to select a Federal Territory "not exceeding ten miles square, on the river Potomac, at some place between the mouths of the Eastern

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 13).

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THE ELECTRIC FURNACE.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



ELECTRICITY has passed through three stages in development; first it was applied to the telegraph and the wonder of the age was that messages could be sent from end to end of a continent or under the sea; next its power was used for lighting and it is said that should the whole power of Niagara be used in producing one enormous electric light its power would be so great that it could easily be seen from the moon were there any inhabitants to view the wonder, and some even imagine that our neighbor Mars might perceive its brilliance; but now comes the third stage in its development, that is, its use in transmitting power. No longer are cars and carriages propelled by its power, objects of especial interest on our city streets, but its use in furnaces and for heating purposes is not yet common enough to be without interest to the public. Already many of the arts, especially those relating to the working of metals, are being completely changed.

Electric furnaces are simple in construction, consisting of an electric arc, similar to that in the arc light, enclosed in a masonry box or oven. Through the carbons between which the electric arc is formed, a very strong electric current may be allowed to flow, raising the temperature within the furnace to such a height that it cannot be measured but is estimated at six thousand degrees Fahrenheit. Of course such a furnace as just described would be used only in laboratories, but the furnaces of the great electric power companies at Niagara are constructed on the same general principle. They are built loosely of fire brick, without chimney, doors, or drafts. At either side are the electric connections, through which may be carried to the carbon core the electricity which is to do the work required. When that is done the furnace is "blown off," so that the heat is allowed to escape and the heap of fire brick which is left is mere rubbish, for nothing yet discovered can withstand such heat.

But, we ask, what is the use of such heat as this? The answer which the scientist gives us may be something like this: "The heat of the electric furnace will, within a few years, revolutionize the useful arts. The rarest gems which our earth affords will be duplicated by means of this heat, and combined with great pressure even diamonds may be produced by the bucketful. Not only shall we produce, but, by means of the furnace, we may discover how in the ages long gone by the wonderful forces of nature worked on a larger scale than we now work in a small furnace."

So much for prophecy, but what has actually been done? Not many years ago the world had scarcely heard of aluminum; to-day even kitchen utensils are made of it, and this change has been effected by the means of the electric furnace. Clay is heated to such a high temperature that it melts and the aluminum is separated from the impurities. This introduction of a new and cheap material into the manufacture of dishes is a valuable acquisition, as tin has for years been growing more expensive.

Lime and carbon are united in the furnace to form a new compound called carbide of lime, which being dropped into water decomposes forming acetylene gas. This will in time become a valuable illuminant and it is now used almost entirely in France and Germany, but it is very explosive and its use has not been generally adopted in this country, while in England it is forbidden.

Then, too, graphite is extensively manufactured in the electric furnace, and to-day our lead pencils, stove blacking and lubricants of most kinds owe their being to this wonder of the age.

But of all the wonders yet worked by electric power probably the most interesting to us all are the experiments for the production of diamonds and other precious stones by artificial means. Some eight years ago the eminent French chemist, Moissan, announced to the world that he had, in his laboratory, produced genuine diamonds. In an electric furnace he melted pure iron and powdered carbon or charcoal. When the temperature had attained a height of 6000 degrees Fahrenheit the crucible containing the fused mass was quickly plunged into cold water or molten lead so that it was suddenly cooled, causing great pressure to be exerted on the mass. When cold the iron was dissolved by means of acids, and the tiny crystals of the carbon or pure diamonds were left. These are not artificial diamonds. They will answer every test of the geologist or jeweler but they are very small. Think of the common bit of charcoal or carbon lying by the side of the road! Who would for a moment think that it was a near relative to the sparkling jewel on "my lady's" hand? It was not until early in this century that chemists decided that the diamond was composed of only one substance and that pure carbon. Within the last decade it was discovered that diamonds were contained in meteoric iron, that the iron and carbon dust plunging through the upper atmosphere became suddenly cooled and formed the diamond and iron which was pulled to the earth as a meteor. It was by following this clue that Moisson succeeded as he did. The only drawback, now, to the wholesale manufacture of diamonds, is the fact that man has not yet mastered nature's secret of great pressure. Great heat man has attained, but great pressure he has still to strive for.

In a similar way ruby, emerald, sapphire and amethyst might be produced by crystalizing kaolin, which is the pure form of oxide of aluminum; while the ruby and opal might be made from the common quartz sand on our beaches.

Constantly experiments are being carried on by chemists in all parts of the world, but notably at Niagara, where the terrific force of the great cataract is transmitted along copper wires to gigantic dynamos. Already several new substances have been formed and some of the tiny crystals formed have so closely resembled diamonds that it will not be surprising if we hear of the real thing at last being produced—when man has mastered the art of pressure.

In all times and ages man has attempted to understand, to overcome and to reproduce the forces of nature. He is doing the same to-day. Millions on millions of years ago carbon and the other elements existed, were heated and pressure applied so that the crystals we have to-day were formed. Then the sun's heat helped the great tree ferns to grow and to fall, it caused the great volcanic eruptions which covered the forests, heated and pressed them into coal, and to-day man digs that coal from the earth, makes of it carbon pencils through which he carries electric power and attempts the same process which nature used in the days before time was.

BERWICK SPONGE CAKE.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



TO the present generation of New England people Berwick sponge cake is only a name, but their fathers and mothers have toothsome recollections of the excellence of this old-time dainty. Few among them, however, know the origin and history of the delicious sponge cake upon which all travelers through North Berwick, Maine, invariably lavished their small coins.

In 1845, an employe of the Boston and Maine Railroad, named William C. Briggs, had the misfortune to lose a leg through an accident on the road. The railroad Company were somewhat to blame, and Briggs threatened a lawsuit. Rather than submit to this the Company made him several compensatory offers if he would relinquish his purpose, but he was dissatisfied with all. At last he proposed to them that they should fit him up a restaurant at North Berwick, Maine, and agree to halt there for five minutes, every train which passed by. The Company gladly agreed, and the restaurant was started. This was before the days of dining cars and buffet lunches, and travelers were dependent on station lunch rooms and trainboys for their meals. Mrs. Briggs was a famous cook and the restaurant throve mightily, and the Briggs family were already looking up in the world when the fertile brain of Mrs. Briggs devised a new sponge cake, lighter, sweeter and more golden-yellow than had ever been before conceived of. The public—the traveling public—were simply enraptured. No such cake had ever been dreamed of; its fame flew far and wide and it found thousands of purchasers. Every one passing through North Berwick bought sponge cake whether he needed it or not. It was made and sold in all sizes, from the immense loaf in a huge wooden box to the tiny square costing ten cents—the smallest sum for which it could be obtained. It was ordered in quantities for restaurants and hotels and for private people in far away cities.

The Briggs family rapidly increased in wealth; great sums were offered them for the secret of the manufacture of their famous cake, but they refused to reveal it. Every batch of it was concocted by Mrs. Briggs herself, and no one was allowed to watch her as she mixed it. Nothing concerning either her ingredients or her methods ever leaked out except that she beat her eggs in a churn.

For twenty years Briggs managed his restaurant and sold many a toothsome delicacy besides the famous cake—a custard pie of Mrs. Briggs' making having great local celebrity—and at length waxed so rich that he disposed of the business and retired into private life, where he speculated, lost his wealth, and died a poor man.

Submarine Torpedoes and Wireless Telegraphy.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



ONE of the most diabolical of recent inventions is that of wireless telegraphy as applied to the guidance of submarine torpedoes. In its action it seems almost human, and it must be a fearful thing to be on board of a ship which is being chased to destruction by one of these missiles of death. The torpedo in itself is not materially different from those in common use, but it is supplied with two staffs which project above the surface of the water and receive electric waves reaching them through the air and generated by a suitable apparatus on the torpedo boat. To the rudderhead of the torpedo are attached two coils of wire with two cores of iron near them. When an electric current passes around the coils in one direction one of the cores is sucked into the coils of wire; while if the current circulates in the other direction the other core enters its spiral. Now, if it is desired to alter the course of the torpedo, electric waves are developed on the torpedo boat, pass through the air, and are received by the staffs attached to the torpedo. These in turn are made to develop an electric current in the coils of wire, and one or the other of the cores, as is needed, is sucked into its coil, and this movement turns the helm of the torpedo. As soon as the torpedo has turned in the desired direction the waves of electricity from the torpedo boat are stopped.

In this way a torpedo can be made to follow the course of a ship in its flight, and no matter how often its destination may be changed, it cannot escape the torpedo, since this invention enables it to turn as correctly and as frequently as may be necessary to follow and reach its prey. Think of being on board of such a doomed vessel and watching your fate steadily and relentlessly pursuing you through the water, and giving you no loophole of escape! Does not the very thought bring a shudder?

But this invention is at present too costly for general use, and it is to be hoped, too, that the same inventive genius which has evolved this missile of destruction will also furnish a rebutting agency for the use of the pursued ship,—a power which will be able to either destroy or turn back the relentless torpedo.

Queer Uses of Telegraph Poles.



A LONDON paper tells us that when telegraph wires and poles were first introduced in some countries the moaning of the wind through the wires had a curious effect upon birds and animals, and bears and woodpeckers especially were destructive in trying to get inside the poles to discover what was causing the noise.

In Algeria 'tis said that some of the savage tribes made the copper wire into nose rings and used the porcelain insulators as drinking cups.

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THREE MONTHS' FREE TRIAL. As a guarantee that the Edgemere Sewing Machine will give the best of satisfaction, that it is the equal of any other machine sold in your market, we give you the privilege of using this machine in your own home for three months, and if, at any time during the three months you become dissatisfied for any cause whatever, if you find that it fails to do what any other sewing machine will do, and as well, you can return it to us at our expense of freight charges both ways and we will return your money.

OUR 20 YEARS' BINDING GUARANTEE. With every Edgemere Sewing Machine at $12.75, we issue a written, binding, 20 years' guarantee, by the terms and conditions of which, if any piece or part gives out by reason of defect in material or workmanship, we will replace or repair it FREE OF CHARGE.

SPECIAL FEATURES OF OUR $12.75 EDGEMERE.

5-DRAWER DROP-HEAD CABINET. A great improvement over the old style, upright woodwork, so constructed that when not in use the head may be dropped out of sight, where it is protected from dust and dirt, and affords you a handsome desk, stand or table.

COLORED MARQUETRY DECORATION. From the illustrations which are engaved by our artist from photographs, we have endeavored to show the design of the handsome colored marquetry decoration on the Edgemere Cabinet. The Edgemere Cabinet is of solid oak, highly finished and finely decorated, with handsome colored marquetry floral design decoration on the panels, drawers, top and corners, with a handsome colored marquetry tape inlaid on front edge of table.

HIGH ARM. Our $12.75 Edgemere has one of the highest arms of any sewing machine made, giving ample room for the handling of large and bulky material.

FINISH. Our $12.75 Edgemere is given an extra fine finish throughout. Has a heavy nickel plated face plate, nickel plated balance wheel, very finest full finished enameling with fancy colored decoration and ornamentation.

ATTACHMENTS FURNISHED. With our $12.75 Edgemere we furnish a very complete set of attachments free, including 1 foot hemmer, 1 tucker, 1 thread cutter, 2 screwdrivers, 1 ruffler, 1 quilter, 6 bobbins, 1 gatherer, 1 binder, 1 package of needles, 1 gauge, 1 set of plain hemmers of different widths up to ¾ of an inch, one oil can filled with oil and an instruction book.

OUR NEW 1900 MODEL EDGEMERE has every modern improvement, all the up-to-date points of every high-grade machine made; has the newest style five-drawer cabinet, made of solid oak, beautifully finished, highly polished and decorated with colored marquetry. It comes with four side drawers and one center drawer, the latest 1900 model skeleton frame, one of the most massive, most complete and expensive sewing machine cabinets made; carved, paneled, embossed and finished with colored marquetry decoration; fine nickel plated drawer pulls, rests on four casters, has a Saxton adjusted treadle and the best full black enameled iron stand made.

OUR SPECIAL $12.75 PRICE is based on the actual cost of material and labor with but our one small percentage of profit added. If you buy an Edgemere Sewing Machine from us, at $12.75 you will get one of the handsomest machines that was ever seen in your section, you will get a machine at less than your dealer can buy the same grade machine in carload lots, you will get a strictly high grade, 20-year guaranteed sewing machine, complete with every new up-to-date attachment, put up in one of the handsomest 5-drawer solid oak, color decorated, drop head cabinets, you will get a sewing machine the equal of which you can buy only from your dealer at home at two to three times our price.



THIS ILLUSTRATION gives you an idea of the appearance of the high grade, high arm EDGEMERE SEWING MACHINE which we furnish at $12.75 in the handsome, 5-drawer, drop head, oak cabinet illustrated; one of the best high arm heads made. Positive four motion feed, self-threading, vibrating shuttle; automatic bobbin winder, adjustable bearings, patent tension liberator, improved nickel plated loose wheel, adjustable presser foot, improved shuttle carrier, patent needle bar, patent dress guard, patent belt controller. The head is handsomely decorated and ornamented, full nickel plated face plate, black enameled base; handsome colored transfer ornamentations; beautiful nickeled trimmings throughout.



No. 43K ORDER BY NUMBER.

THIS ILLUSTRATION gives you an idea of the appearance of our special $12.75 5-drawer, Drop Head Cabinet Edgemere Machine closed, to be used as a writing desk, center table or stand. The head drops completely from sight, table folds up and being of highly finished antique oak, very elaborately decorated in colored marquetry decorations, you have really a beautiful piece of furniture. The illustrations and descriptions can give you but a faint idea of the handsome machine the Edgemere is, of the wonderful value we are furnishing at $12.75. You must see it, examine it, use it and compare it with other machines to really appreciate what we are offering. Our free-to-examine offer, our three months' free trial, our 20-year binding guarantee and our established reputation make you perfectly safe in sending your order to us.

HOW TO COMPARE

OUR $12.75 EDGEMERE

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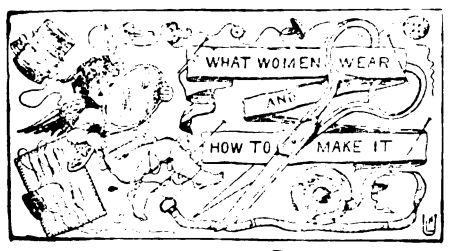
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WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



ONE of these days some clever woman is going to invent a corset which shall effectually cover all the needs of the stout woman. To be sure there are dozens of widely advertised corsets on the market, all of which claim to reduce the hips and abdomen, as well as reduce the waist by several inches. If we pause to think a moment we can readily see that by reducing, or compressing one portion the other must suffer. If the corset is tightened at the waist more than is absolutely natural, the flesh is pushed down causing the abdomen to protrude abnormally, also the hips to a more or less degree. I am going to tell you of the device of a young woman who felt and saw herself daily growing stouter and stouter. Drawing her corsets in their usual way was uncomfortable and only resulted in a prominent stomach and big lumps at the hips bordering the corset line. She had a number of celebrated corsets tried on, none of which made her any smaller because they were all long and heavily boned; finally, in sheer desperation, she put on a pair of very short corsets, hardly more than a girdle and found to her intense delight she had found what she wanted. The secret of success, however, depended largely on the way they were adjusted. After they were clasped and before the laces were drawn into place, she pulled them down in front until they entirely supported the abdomen; then the hose supporters were adjusted snugly, helping keep the corset in place. To assist this arrangement,



the avoirdupois was lifted and kneaded into the top of the corset. Then the lower lace, composing the waist was drawn comfortably and my lady found herself with the new low-busted figure and declared she had never been so comfortable before. To be sure her waist measure was increased two inches, but her "stomach" was perfectly flat and her lines exceedingly graceful. The theory of heavy, stiff corsets for the stout figures is all bosh. The more pliant the corset the more pleasing the effect.

The English are sending us some stunning things in cloaks for traveling, driving, or rain. One which I considered especially fetching is a dust brown color in a crisp, smooth cloth, impervious to rain and dust alike. It is cut in Raglan form, perfectly loose and finished with a notched coat collar. There are large pockets at the front, and a little silk yoke inside to keep it from getting out of gear. When worn with a suitable hat there can be no more effective rig. All of these new coats are long, to the foot of the skirt, usually thirty-eight inches or four inches from the ground and can be worn with the rainy day skirt.



Another smart style is made up in a silk material, rainproof, in all colors, black, gray, wine, blue and brown. From a square yoke the silk is box-plaited at the back and perfectly plain at the front. A coat collar and large coat sleeves complete the garment.

The latest thing in the way of belts and neck fixings is the application of black velvet ribbon at each. The wide velvet probably two inches in width, is selected for the belt, requiring four and one-half yards. Divide this exactly even, and fasten the center to the center of the skirt band, then draw to the back, cross, and fasten in front with a small bow and long ends. The neck is arranged in the same manner, having shorter ends, however. The fact that the velvet is attached to the garment makes it most convenient of adjustment.

Narrow velvet ribbon is used lavishly on gowns of all sorts of fabrics, both as a binding and in bands laid flatly. A favorite bodice decoration is tiny rosettes of this stuff arranged in rows down the front and at the hand.

One of the daintiest sleeves conceivable is made up in the Bishop fashion quite full at the wrist and fastened with a tiny band of velvet ribbon which ties in a bow knot.

Sailor collars are the latest cry and are applied to all manner of bodices. Usually it is made of some sheer fabric in linen, (tan batiste being a favorite) and delicately finished with fine hand hemstitching or a delicate embroidery. These collars are large enough to reach over the shoulders and impart a wonderfully youthful look to the figure.

The collarless Eton bids fair to be one of our pets during the coming fall and winter. One can easily see how they will adapt themselves to the use of fur collars, etc.

English tailors are crying short skirts; not the abbreviated sort, to be sure, but those of a walking length, clearing the ground all around and doing entirely away with the necessity of tiring one's arm holding them up. However, this applies only to street gowns; trailing skirts are far too becoming and have won their way in our affections too securely to be banished altogether, and so the long skirt will still reign for indoor and evening toilettes, as well as reception and calling costumes. For my part I love even the tailor-mades as long and clinging as possible, and for one shall bid them a reluctant farewell.

Separate waists made up of all-over tucked stuffs, either cotton or silk are much to the fore; the tucks laid bias on both body and arms—made in this manner, with a stock and frou-frou frill of lace or embroidery finishing the front, the effect is remarkably chic. I saw such a waist made up in tan linen batiste, with a stock and jabot frill of batiste embroidery.



Among this season's most charming models I noticed a costume in sky blue veiling, very light; the skirt was shaped and did not come within two-finger's width of the ground. The pretty small bolero was braided with tiny black velvet ribbon, and opened over a chemisette of white lawn, very simple, having finely frilled sleeves, trimmed at the wrist with black velvet, and extending beyond the sleeves of the bolero which were turned up. The shoes and stockings worn with this rig were of a pale gray color, while the large soft hat of yellow straw had a thick wreath of ivy and a big flat black velvet bow across the front.

Fichus are worn with all possible gowns and go far toward giving an air of daintiness and distinction to a simple toilette. Those made of point de sprit are especially favored; very pretty ones having a set of frills as a finish, each frill bound with narrow white satin ribbon. Sometimes white satin, or a colored ribbon, two or three inches in width is used to fasten them over the breast, forming a bow with long ends mingling with the ends of the fichu.

A dainty little frock of wool in stripes in black and white of equal width has the narrow skirt set together in herring bone fashion, a piping of black velvet intersecting each breadth; at the foot each seam is left open to a little below the knees displaying a hollow pleat underneath, giving a decided flare. The bodice has the stripes arranged horizontally, and has a long, narrow guimpe of tucked white muslin, with full bishop sleeves of the same set off by a band and knot of velvet at the hand. Bands of the velvet pass over the shoulders connecting the bodice with a small bow and steel buckle on each shoulder. The collar is a combination of blue panne and black velvet, while the dash of blue at the belt gives the completing touch.

PERFUMES.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



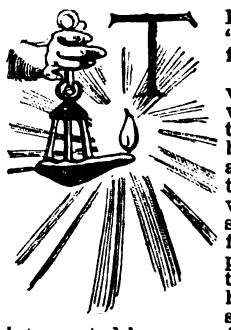
AFTER the modiste has modeled and the milliner created there is one very essential thing left. Before "my lady's toilet is complete a good perfume of the right kind is necessary, and if we can't have a conservatory handy we must turn to the manufactured violet, rose, or jasmine.

The story is told that a favorite of an eastern harem was the discoverer of ottar-of-roses. Through her garden flowed (artificially of course) a stream of rose water on whose surface were noticed little oily drops. These she collected in her hand for amusement and to her delight found these drops gave forth an unusually delightful odor. This was found to be the oil or ottar of the rose, and from this incident sprang up the manufacture of this kind of perfume, with its center in Bulgaria. The warm sun's rays with plenty of rich soil are the only requisites in growing the roses which produce a good amount of this oil. The oil of rose geranium is often employed to adulterate ottar-of-roses which is very expensive when absolutely pure. In Corsica and Algiers these geraniums are grown for the perfume market. To get the essential oil the whole plant is put into the still with frequently a few rose leaves added to improve the quality.

Many of our common perfumes, violet for example, are made up of a combination of other things which is a very good imitation of the real flower. When a blossom is as small as the violet the cost of growing and gathering is so great it rarely pays, and a composition of orris-root with other ingredients is commonly substituted. However the French perfumers export the most delicate at the same time there is little real violet perfume in the market and in the south of France this little flower is grown extensively for their use. Here, too, tuberoses are cultivated from which cologne water is made by what is called the "enflowering" process. The flowers are placed in contact with thin layers of grease spread on panes of glass, the blossoms being renewed each day. This lard takes the odor from these blossoms. Finally when it is saturated with the perfume it is steeped in alcohol which too has a strong affinity for odors and so absorbs the essential oil from the grease. Musk is often used to accentuate an odor and to make it more lasting.

Chemists are constantly discovering how to reproduce perfumes without the flowers. From coal oil an odor of carnations has been evolved and perhaps erelong the laboratory will produce perfumes which will replace those obtained by distillation from blossoms.

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JOEL SHOMAKER,
Editor *Farmer and Dairyman*.
North Yakima, Wash.

Subscribed and sworn to before me, this 3d day of January, 1899.
JAS. R. COE, *County Clerk*.

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September as far as the work-a-day world goes marks the beginning of another period of effort. Schools, factories and general business throw off the vacation air and commence to "get up steam." Nature recognizes no such distinction and calls to the crowds hurrying cityward with her most enticing voices. Sky and water and wood do not hear the knell to their reign that September first rings. To those fortunate enough to be able to prolong vacation hours, September seems the best vacation month, for it is the maturity of summer, not the childhood of autumn.

There are many people who endeavor to calm their view of current history by looking at it in perspective. The actual horrors of the situations in China, South Africa, the Philippines and India are depressing to even the most hopeful, buoyant temperament. Those who consider the situation apart from the moral standpoint or from the physical one see in all this the final struggle between the forces and powers of barbarism and ignorance and those of civilization. In the end the greatest civilization must conquer and if we close our eyes to the slips and consider only results it may be the easiest method of avoiding pessimism.

It is rather amusing to find women falling back upon the precedent of history, custom and tradition to prove that a life of ease and luxury was intended for her. A woman lawyer in Chicago recently convinced a jury that her woman client could not be convicted as a vagrant because it was contrary to precedent that women should work. The case was decided in favor of the "vagrant." At the moment that the woman lawyer was clearing her client she was undermining her own right and claim to a hearing as a woman who not only worked but entered a field supposedly reserved to men. There is such a feminine lack of logic in the situation united with a feminine quickness of comprehension that it contains volumes on the "woman question." Women have been clamoring for the right to work for the past quarter of a century. Now one of those who has gained the right defends her sister by throwing over her crime of begging the rose light of custom and tradition.

A somewhat childish fad of European origin is coming into favor in America. This is the card postal embellished by pictures in crude colors. A penny stamp and a colored card make the new postal combination. These cards have long been favorite methods of remembrance from European countries. The pictures of buildings, scenery and persons save the old time descriptive letter. We have imported the idea but have shown a tendency to render it absurd. Bright colored pictures of the presidential nominees with the cheering prediction "Our Next President" indicate the local preference and the general interest. The horrible disaster of the burning ships of the Hamburg American line was selected as an illustration of a recent card. Artistically the cards are a crime and when good taste and delicacy of feeling are both violated in the selection of the subject of illustration one hopes that the fad may be as short lived as the Christmas card craze. There are artistic possibilities in a good illustration of scenery or notable buildings done in black and white and used as a postal card, but the present work is not a thing of beauty and we trust that its vogue may be short lived.

Statistics are often used as a basis for certain conclusions concerning race, national or local characteristics. It is an amusing and harmless occupation and may be a possible basis for scientific deductions on physical or mental characteristics. The old Scripture belief was "As a man thinks in his heart so is he." The modern philosopher who is a practical physiologist often believes "As a man digest in his internal economy so is he." That conclusion might not be drawn from the following statistics. A certain railroad furnished the patrons of its dining car with a printed slip containing three plans for serving meals. "No. 1" was to be the American table-de-hote plan—three meals per day at a dollar a meal. This old time method caught the suffrages of nearly all the travelers from the Eastern and Middle States. "Plan No. 2" was a combination of European and American plan or the familiar "table-de-hote" and "a-la-carte." Field's simple and comprehensive explanation of the terms as meaning that "in 'a-la-carte' you get a part and in 'table-de-hote' all there is," may have been the factor that influenced the Westerners to favor this plan. "Plan No. 3" was to be European throughout the day and foreigners invariably chose this plan. The company decided to put "Plan No. 2" into operation. Hereafter on that line you may choose what you shall eat at morning and noon and regulate your expenditure as your purse and your appetite may exact. At night you must eat what is given you and pay one dollar for the privilege.

August first was observed as Marquette Day in Michigan. The state has a public park on Mackinac Island and a meeting was held there to consider the formation of an association to procure the necessary funds for a statue of Marquette. This is a move in the right direction. The growing interest shown in our own history is constantly seeking expression in the erection of monuments, tablets, statues and the preservation of historic buildings. This is right, proper and commendable, but at the same time there should be a purpose to teach the truth of history through these memorials. We are an English speaking nation today. Our laws and institutions are English but the exploration and subjugation of the continent was but partly due to Englishmen. The French and the Spanish were the earliest explorers. They have left their names as landmarks in many of our states. These facts in our history should be emphasized for two reasons. They show the truth and they also emphasize the fact that while these nations were the pioneers it was the Anglo-Saxon who conquered at last and made the continent from the Atlantic to the Pacific all his own. The newer states have made scarcely any effort to perpetuate the names of their early explorers. They have kept local names and added others of like origin but few statues or tablets show the Spanish, French, Dutch and Swedish element that were a part of the beginning. Michigan's statue to Father Marquette in the gallery of National Statuary awakened much foolish discussion. The state should be honored for its historical insight in honoring the names of its pioneers.

The great universities and colleges of our country will enroll a larger number of students than ever before in the history of the nation. Universities like Cornell, that furnish many free scholarships, feel most strongly this popular demand for higher education. Cornell gives many free scholarships to the state and this autumn it has nearly one hundred additional students through this avenue alone. Side by side with this great increase in the numbers of those seeking college training is the decreasing value set upon college degrees as degrees. In the immediate past the man or woman who had a college training had a distinction and consideration from that fact alone. This is emphatically a past condition. It does not mean that such training is not highly regarded as training. The members seeking it discountenance that idea. It is only that the means are lost sight of in the end. There has never been a time in the history of the world where strong, well poised individuality was more highly prized or met with quicker recognition. What you are, not how you became so, is the test that the practical spirit of today applies to individuals. The world does not ask to see college degrees or testimonials of scholarships but only ability to do some one thing well. If the education that a man or woman has had fits them to fill some place in the world's economy, then it is a good education whether gained in the college or in the actual struggle. There is no longer any special distinction in how an individual gets ready to work, but there is constantly an opportunity for distinction in his ability to do work. That college training seems to many the most practical preparation for success in life is shown by the great and growing demand for this instruction. That the same result may be obtained without this preparation is no less evident. College from being an end has become an incident, but it has not suffered in the change.

The question "to tip or not to tip" is spasmodically discussed in America and many high moral objections as well as pecuniary ones are made against the practice. In spite of the discussions pro and con the practice has long been on the steady increase. Now it has received the stamp mark of a legitimate expense.. The United States government finally allowed a disputed bill to be paid, the item questioned being fifty cents given to the porter of a sleeping car and charged as a legitimate expense. This is giving a legal status to what many consider an unlawful extortion. In Europe the practice is so long established that the person who serves you will ask for the tip if it is not forthcoming. The tips there are very small in comparison with the extravagance of ideas on the topic in America. The small tip in Europe is received with thanks but the chilling supercillious manner in which the sum considered too small is received here must be experienced to be understood. If the practice is to be recognized as a part of legitimate expenditure, then some scale regulating the matter should have the force of unwritten law. It has long been understood that ten per cent. of the total cost of a meal was a fair return of the diner for service. It is the bell boy, the porter, the cabman and the chambermaid whose services furnish a sliding scale of extortion or reward as the victim may choose to consider it. The whole idea is opposed to the supposed simplicity and equality of democracy but the reformers have evidently lost the battle. Some time ago an article was written to prove that a person of moderate means could not afford to accept an invitation to some of the fashionable country houses because, forsooth, his friend's servants expected such large tribute that the sum total made the whistle too dear. Now as the government has recognized "tips" it should compile statistics on a scale of tips or establish a bureau of arbitration between him who gives and him who takes.

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THE SQUIRRELS' FROLIC.

FRANK R. GILLIS.



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VALUABLE VIOLINS.

In spite of the enormous prices we often have seen in the catalogues of various musical houses and the common stories of fabulous prices which are said to have been given for violins of famous makes, there have been public challenges in the musical world to cite a single authentic case where a violin has been put up at auction and has brought as high as $5000.

This discussion has led to the publication of very interesting statistics which will claim the attention of all players; but which, unfortunately for the much-believed stories of great sales, show that the challengers knew whereof they wrote. The only case near it is a recent one where a lady wrote to a London paper that a friend of hers had just purchased a Stradivarius built in 1726, at an auction sale in Brussels, bidding and paying therefor $5000. This would have shown the challenger wrong, but on investigation it was found that the auction was held by M. Darche, the Brussels violin expert, and the instrument was found to have been knocked down at $3960.

What is perhaps the finest violin in the world—the Messie—was purchased by a man in Edinburgh named Crawford, who is said to have paid nearly $10,000 for it; but this was not an auction sale. The Stradivarius in the possession of Lady Halle (formerly Mme. Norman Neruda) who some of COMFORT's readers will remember playing in Chicago in 1899, cost her the sum of $2500. This instrument belonged to Ernst and was given Lady Halle by Lord Dudley and other admirers.

When the Russian violinist, Petschnikoff, played in this country a year ago, he brought two Strad violins with him. One of these, a large model, formerly belonged to the great St. Petersburg player, Ferdinand Lamb, and was presented to Petschnikoff by a Russian princess. Many papers refer to this instrument as the most costly one in existence. When the Spanish player, Sarasate, was in America he carried an insurance of $15,000 on his instrument.

Stradivarius violins are considered as worth from $400 to $4000. In his own time one Cervetto, a salesman in London, received a consignment of these violins from the great maker, which he was commissioned to sell at $20 apiece. But owing to what was considered the exorbitant price the whole lot was shipped back to the maker, who, himself, was accustomed to make violins to order for four louis-d'or each. These and many other interesting facts have been brought out by the challenge, but up to the present time the claim remains really undisputed.

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Music in Early American Churches.

In most of the churches of the early days no music whatever was allowed, and in some even a pitch pipe was considered profanation. This was largely owing to the prejudices which existed against the music in Roman Catholic churches, and which was still used in the service of the Church of England which retained the Catholic form of worship rendered into English. In 1675 a law was enacted that no one should play on any instrument of music except a drum, the trumpet or a jew's-harp; and as late as in 1735, when one of the splendid organs still in Trinity Church, Providence, R. I., was presented to it by the Dean of Berkley in England, the people in public meeting voted "that an organ is an instrument of the Devil for the entrapping of men's souls," and declined to accept the benefaction.

Thus the wretched psalm singing of our ancestors went on for 100 years with these meager selections without the aid of instruments or female voices. It was bad enough in the beginning and evidently grew worse. Not a single song was composed, and not a single hymn written in America during the century; but by degrees the situation improved and books giving the rules of music were printed. These rules of music threw the churches into commotion, and at one place it was voted, after a discussion of whether the singing in the church should be by rote or note, "That if we once begin to sing by note, the next thing will be to pray by rote, and then comes Popery." It is pleasing to know that this long warfare over the matter of singing lead to many town meetings, as the churches of the Puritans were then supported by the town, and many peculiar laws were passed for localities. In one, singers were to sing half the time by reading one line, and half the time by reading two lines, and many similar laws were passed; but in time the custom silently went out.

JEAN DE RESZKE'S VOICE.

Considerable interest having been aroused by a recent piece in COMFORT relative to the late misfortunes of the de Reszkes, and particularly as to the voice of Jean, it is somewhat difficult to find the true condition of the great singer's health. Reports are undoubtedly exaggerated but are denied with an emphasis that shows the sensitiveness of his friends while not in any way serving to dispel the clouds of doubt. According to late authoritative London sources, Jean caught a chill in Paris previous to his visit to the English capital, and this is accountable for his break-down there. It is also stated that the apparent feebleness of his voice is due a great deal to his nervousness and fear of results, and to the fact that for prudential reasons he has of late been taking things very quietly during the first acts of the opera, husbanding his power until the last act. Notwithstanding this explanation there are many printed statements going the rounds of the press which seem to indicate that many people who have listened to him in any of the late performances have serious apprehensions as to the final recovery of his old-time power.

SAVING MONEY IN MUSIC.

It would surprise almost any of COMFORT's six million readers to drop into the mailing rooms some day and see the great loads of papers going to the mails, but what would much more interest the readers of this particular page would be to see the neat piles of sheet music rapidly melting away before the onsloughts of the mailers hastening to fill the pile of daily orders from delighted patrons who have learned what a tremendous bargain is embodied in COMFORT's music offer which is published from month to month and which appears on another page of this paper.

So incredible does it appear, that real full size sheet music such as costs from 25 to 50 cents a sheet at stores can be sent at practically cost of mailing, that at first one is disinclined to put much faith in it. But one trial leads to such satisfaction and delight that order after order is sent and friend after friend joins the happy circle of those who have found a place to obtain the very best music at a trifling cost. Not only that but COMFORT offers to return your money if you are dissatisfied or if there is any misrepresentation. No wonder, then, at the success of the offer. Read it and see its terms for yourself.

One of the late notable pieces for the piano and one that is attracting much attention from advanced musical critics is a descriptive piece for the piano by Victor Vogel, called "Launched in Life," in which the pleasures and pains of domestic married life are supposedly developed. Mendelssohn's "Wedding March" is incorporated and the composition concludes with the sentiment "Home, Sweet Home." The portion relating to the marriage engagement and the presentation of the diamond is set forth in a most skillful manner and is so true to life that young ladies of COMFORT's editorial rooms who have heard it declare it is true to life and almost as sweet as the actual occurrence, which is certainly a great compliment to the composition.

Not all is trouble in the De Reszke family's pathway. Recently at a court performance of Faust at Windsor Castle the Queen decorated Edward de Reszke with the jewel of the Victoria Order, much to the gratification of that accomplished gentleman.

About a couple of years ago a young Irish child violinist performed in many parts of America with considerable success and great promise for the future. Many of COMFORT's readers will remember little Maude McCarthy, who scarcely seemed large enough to handle the violin she carried. She has recently performed in London with flattering success in one so young, and it is believed that every bright promise for her success will be filled.

Origin of The District of Columbia.

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9.)

Branch and the Conogocheague for the permanent seat of the Government of the United States." The new territory was to be ready for use in 1800.

The final adoption of the Potomac site for the National Territory was brought about by a scheme between Jefferson and Hamilton. Hamilton had just devised his great masterpiece of statesmanship—The Funding Bill—which provided for the assumption by the Government of the debts incurred by the States during the Revolutionary War. This bill had been defeated in the House, after a severe struggle, and Hamilton was earnestly trying to have it reconsidered, and had appealed to Jefferson, who was just then working with all the energy of which he was capable, to bring about a decision upon the location of the Federal District, to help him.

Jefferson invited Hamilton to dine with him on the following day, and also asked two or three other friends to be of the party. The matter was talked over quietly, and it was agreed among them that the two Potomac Members who had previously voted against Hamilton's bill should change their vote, and in return Hamilton promised to use his influence to have the Federal District established on the banks of the Potomac.

Thus the wisdom and shrewdness of these two able men settled a serious difficulty in the affairs of the nation, and placed the city of Washington on its present site.

The Territory was finally decided upon in January, 1791, and comprised one hundred square miles lying on both sides of the Potomac, and including the city of Alexandria. One of the original corner-stones of the District still lies at Jones' Point, near Alexandria, but is now hidden from view beneath the steps of the lighthouse since erected there. The land upon the west side of the river, including the city of Alexandria, was retroceded to Virginia by Congress in 1846, and the District now comprises but sixty-four square miles, all lying upon the Maryland bank of the river.

Chinese Home Life and Superstitions.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



WONG ALOY.

THE attention of the whole world has been attracted to China for the last few months, and yet there is no other great country of the real life of which we know so little. Americans are apt to look upon China, I think, as a great mysterious empire, inhabited by a race of strange beings who do not have the same human feelings as ourselves. At least I know that was my own condition until, at the time of the World's Fair at Chicago, I became rather intimately acquainted with many of the Chinese who had come there, and with one man in particular. From that man, Mr. Wong Aloy, I learned much about the country of China which interested me.

Wong Aloy had lived in this country several years and spoke English very well. What is more remarkable for one of his race, he also wrote English very well. Sometimes his use of a word would be very funny, especially the perfect tense of the verbs, but in general his grammar was good and his spelling was remarkable for its correctness. I am sure that if I lived in China for all my life I could never begin to write the language of the country half as well as he could write ours.

Wong Aloy was from a good class home, in his own country. His mother was one of the women distinguished there by having small feet, although not the smallest. The size of the feet of course depends upon how young the child is when the feet are first bound. If the family is a very wealthy and aristocratic one, and the child is always going to be able to have everything done for her, her feet are bound while so small that later in life she can hardly use them at all. Girls who are not likely to be able to have so many servants are allowed to let their feet grow to a size which will allow of their moving about with more or less ease. In speaking of the fact that modern ideas were even then penetrating into China this man told me this:

"My mother has small feet, but when my sister came to the age when her feet would have been bound, my mother would not let it be done, because she said she knew what suffering it caused, and she understood now that it was foolish to have it done."



CHINESE CONVERTS TO CHRISTIANITY.

Wong Aloy has frequently taken me into the temples of his people, in this country, where incense was being burned before the Joss. "Of course," he said, "I have lived so long in this country now that I know how needless that is, but in my own country folks believed in it, and for those of my people who come to America strangers, unable to speak a word of the language of the country, it is a great comfort."

I asked my friend to write out for me, once, some of his impressions of his childhood in China. The part which refers to these religious beliefs is interesting. I give it just as he wrote it, incorrect spelling and all:

"My pet name which my folks give me, which was 'sick cat,' its meaning that I was liable to meet death at any time on the account I was weak and sickly. During my early home life in the age of eight to ten I have a great deal of sickness and I was suffer with the typhoid fever.

"My mother believed that the evil spirit made me ill. Of course you understand that the Chinese are superstitious, especially the female sex. My mother tried every ways to help me, and the doctor called most every day, but help me very little. My mother used go to the 'joss house' to worshipped the idles, and she have the faith in them. Some time she took life chicken, rice, liquors and such things. Sometimes she would took cakes, candies and sugar canes. There is no doubt it took away her fortune by her foolishness and superstitions."

One of the most interesting Chinese customs of which this man told me was closely connected with this superstition in regard to his illness. He had been telling me about the fondness of the Chinese for flying kites, their skill, and the many unique kinds of kites which they have. He then told me about the kite festival which is held every year on the ninth of September. On this day all the children are given kites to fly, and sent out to a hillside beside some stream of running water. It is believed that on this day the kites have the power to take from the little fliers any illness which may be hovering over them in the form of evil spirits. After the evil spirit has been drawn off into the kite, the kite is taken down to the river bank, a hole punched in it, and it is held under the running water. The evil spirit is washed out and drowned, and the child is freed from its influence. I let Wong Aloy tell his own story about this:

"One day my mother brought me a kite, but I was ill and unable to flew it, but my dear kind sister one day she took the trouble to flew my kite up in the airs and let me hold the string to enjoy myself. But unfortunately I was so weak and the kite got away from me, and the way my kite went, so fast, and I never see it again within a very few moments.

"After that my sister used took me out to the hillside to watch the other children to flew their kites, and I enjoyed it very much. Just few days before the ninth day of September came my mother brought me another kite for the sake believed on that custom, and have the faith that the kite will take away my sickness.

"When the ninth day of September came my mother sent my sister with me to the beautiful river bank just one eighth of mile away from my home. My sister helped me flew the kite, and then hold it while I punched a hole in it. Then she put it under the water and I hold it there."

Human nature—of children and grown up people, too—does not seem to be very different in China from what it is in the United States, as this man's story of his early experiences will show:

"I remember when I was six years old my mother received a message from my grandmother which stated that she was very ill and not expected to live, and she want to see my mother at once. Of course my mother went to visited my grand-mother. At time I was out playing with the other children, but my mother knew that when I went home, first I want it will be her, but she told my sister what to do in order to satisfied me. When I was tired playing, and kinder hungry, I went home. The first thing I wanted it was my mother.

"'Mamma,' said I. My sister put her beloving arms around me and said, 'Mamma be here soon. Come have our supper.' After supper my sister undressed me and tried to put me in bed, and I knew there was something wrong.

"'Where is mamma?' I asked.

"'She be here soon, dear,' said my sister.

"'Oh, no, I will not go to bed without mamma,' said I with the sorrowful tone. My sister tried to comfort me, and to coax me to bed, but I would not do anything but cried, 'mamma, where is mamma?' and kept up the same tone about half an hour.

"My sister went to my bedside and tried to comfort me, and wiped the tears of my eyes, but I scratched her face and tore her ears and tore the ear-rings from her ears, so at last my sister get out of patient with me and sent for my aunt. She went in and took me in her arms and walked up and down with me, and said, 'Mamma be here soon." But I still crying. So finally my aunt also get out of patient of me, and she knew that I was afraid of the strangers, and then she said, 'Now Aloy if you don't be keep quiet and be a good boy I am going to put you out of doors and let the strangers to carry you off, and you never see us again.'

"And then she walked towards the door, and I said, 'Aunt, I will be good boy.' So my aunt put me in bed again and fanned me for some time, and wiped the tears from my eyes, and by that time I was tired and went asleep."

Is not this threat of "the strangers" interesting, in view of the reports which come to us of the fear which many ignorant Chinese are said to have of the missionaries? I have read of one riot incited because some one said that the missionaries enticed Chinese children into their houses and murdered them.

In the light of this insight into a Chinaman's memories of his home life, something which Mrs. IsabellaBird Bishop has just printed in regard to the influence of the home life of the empire upon its political present and future is interesting. Mrs. Bishop has traveled extensively in China and probably is as well able to write of the conditions there as almost any one. She says:

"In China the unit is not the individual, but the family, indivisible and sacred, the members of which are bound to each other in life and death by indissoluble ties, of the strength of which we cannot form a conception. Villages consist of groups of such families, with their headmen and elders, who are responsible for each individual, the step above them being the hsien, or district magistrate, who may be regarded as the administrative unit. The Chinese have a genius for self-government and are by no means the 'dumb driven cattle' which some suppose them to be. The villages are self-governing, and no official dares to intrench on their hereditary privileges. Every successive dynasty has found itself bound to protect them in these, and no 'Son of Heaven' who called them in question could occupy the 'Dragon throne' for six months. Another cause which tends to counterbalance the evils of the administration is the system of strict surveillance and mutual responsibility under which no man stands alone, and which as a vast network holds China together. This has its own evils, one of which is mutual distrust, which has, however, the good result of preventing men from combining intelligently against the government. The system makes government easy, and certainly does not tend to disintegration."

UNCLE SAM'S NEW SNAILS.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



UNCLE SAM has recently acquired by conquest immense numbers of the most beautiful snails in the world. They infest the Philippine Islands, most of them living on trees. Some have shells of an exquisite blue in color; others are green, and others yet are prettily banded in a great variety of patterns. Those of darkest hues are found usually on the trunks of the trees, while the bright-colored ones occur on the branches and among the foliage.

Of recent years naturalists have taken much interest in the snails of that archipelago, partly by reason of the remarkable variations of coloring shown among some hundreds of species. If any evidence were required to show that the Filipino is a person of exceptional ingenuity, it would be furnished by a description of the method by which the guileless native counterfeits these mollusks for gain. By the skillful manipulation of a hot poker and one or more simple tools, he produces shells of patterns new to science, and sells them to the unwary collector as representing hitherto undiscovered species.

When the hot season of the year arrives, the Philippine snails go to sleep, glueing themselves to the trees, and blocking the entrances to their little houses with a sort of air-tight door composed of a substance which they excrete. So securely do they attach themselves that they can hardly be detached without breaking them; but, when the dry and heated term is over, they wake up again, dissolving the temporary door and resuming business at the old stand. It is a curious fact that a snail, if shut up in a drawer, will resign itself in a similar way to slumber for an indefinite period, and there is record of instances where specimens kept in this manner have been revived after half-a-dozen years by putting them into warmish water.

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THE ELECTRICITY from the batteries will turn a needle through your table or hand. Cures Rheumatism, Liver and Kidney disease, weak and lame back, etc. For advertising purposes we will give ONE BELT FREE to one person in each locality. Address E. J. SMEAD & Co., Dept. 232, Vineland, N. J.

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$90000 AND COLLECTORS
Several honest, capable men wanted in each state to deliver and collect for old, established manufacturing house. $900 a year and expenses sure. Mention reference and enclose self-addressed stamped envelope. MANUFACTURER, 34 Floor, 332 Dearborn St., CHICAGO.
Please mention COMFORT when you write.

SALESMEN Wanted. SALARY or Commission to sell to wholesale and retail trade. Position permanent. Previous experience not essential. RUYTER MFG. CO., 329 Times Bldg., Chicago.

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How to reduce it
Mrs. L. Lanier, Martin, Tenn., writes: "It reduced my weight 2 1/2 lbs. in 15 days without any unpleasant effects whatever." Purely vegetable, and harmless as water. Any one can make it at home at little expense. No starving. No sickness. We will mail a box of it and full particulars in a plain sealed package for 4 cents for postage, etc.
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We will ship a Piano or Organ anywhere
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PIANOS $155
All latest Musical Attachments.
Over a Quarter of a Million Satisfied Customers
attest the honesty of this modern method of piano selling. We Warrant our Pianos and Organs for 25 Years. Back of that Warranty is a business worth over a million dollars.
FREE Our Souvenir Catalogue for 1900 is one of the most comprehensive musical books in the trade. The frontispiece is a masterly reproduction in colors of an oil painting representing St. Cecilia and the Angelic Choir. This catalogue is sent, postpaid, together with a novel reference book—"The Heart of the People"—and our latest special offers, free. The catalogue describes all our pianos and organs. It tells about
The Cornish Patent Musical Attachment
for Pianos, Imitates ACCURATELY Harp, Banjo, Guitar, Zither, Mandolin, etc., while the famous patent Combination Multitone Reed Action make the CORNISH Organs unequalled in tone—reproduce the power of a full orchestra.
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ESTABLISHED 50 YEARS
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Dollars for Pennies.
"THE LIGHT THAT WON'T GO OUT."
Every family in America is ready to buy "The light that sells on sight"—the wonderful new invention called ARC-LIGHT WICK.
It burns a whole year without trimming. It kills a candle, discounts kerosene, beats gas, and almost equals electricity or sunlight.
It gives 20 per cent. of oil. It's clear, white and brilliant. It's the light that won't go out. It's the light in the window for thee.
The Light That Sells On Sight.


The ARC-LIGHT is something new. All need it, all buy it, all bless it. To show it means to sell it, and it yields from 100 per cent. to 300 per cent. profit to agents.
The same kind of carbon that gives the electric light its brilliancy is woven into the Arc-Light by a patent process. We hold affidavits showing that an Arc-Light burned 1040 hours, giving the last hour the same perfect, brilliant, light it gave the first.
A single lamp manufacturer in New England, who bought over 50,000 wicks, says: "The Arc-Light beats all others. It sells our lamps, and turns night into day." Every home, store, hotel, saloon, hall, church, or car company will buy the Arc-Light Wick on sight. We have made arrangements with the manufacturers to introduce this wonderful discovery, and we offer for 60 days the following wholesale terms to agents:
Medium or A wick, 5-8 inch wide—the size for house lamps—by mail, sample 5 cents; per dozen, 25 cents; per gross, $2.50. Small or B wicks, for table, hall, store, or bracket lamps, 1 inch wide, sample, 5 cents. $3.50. D wick, 11-2 inches wide, for incubators, hall, bracket, or store lamps, sample, 8 cents; per dozen, 25 cents; per gross, $3.50. Argand wicks for 33 cents dozen; parlor lamps, sample, 10 cents; per gross, $3.50. On all orders for $10.00 accompanied by the cash, 15 per cent. off. Send for sample dozen, giving width desired, and see how they go. We can supply you with any style ARC-LIGHT WICK in any quantities, from a single wick to a thousand dozen.
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SPECIAL FREE COUPON OFFER. To all who send six cents and this offer for three months' trial subscription to this paper we will send 2 samples of A B or E wick.
Address COMFORT, Box 959, Augusta, Maine.

FREE A HANDSOME COUCH
6 feet long, 27 ins. wide.

Think of it, you can get an Upholstered Couch, 2 pairs of Lace Curtains & a handsome set of Table Silverware, for selling our Remedies. There is no chance or deception about this advertisement. We speak the truth & nothing but the truth. We are determined to introduce our Remedies into every household, and every person answering this advertisement who will sell only 6 boxes of our Positive Corn Cure, a positive cure for corns, bunions and callous feet, will receive our generous offer of a handsome Upholstered Couch & two pairs of Nottingham Lace Curtains, with a Sterling Silver plated Butter Knife, Sugar Spoon, & a beautifully engraved Salt & Pepper Set, which we give absolutely free for selling only 6 boxes of Salve at 25 cts. a box. If you agree to sell the Salve, write to-day and we will send them by mail. When sold you send us the $1.50 & we guarantee if you comply with the offer we shall send you with the Silverware the Upholstered Couch & 2 pairs of Nottingham Lace Curtains will be given absolutely free. We are an old, reliable concern, with a reputation for square & honest dealing, & we guarantee to do exactly as we say. Our Lace Curtains are 3 yards long & over a yard wide. The Silverware is guaranteed silver-plated on pure metal. The Couches are full size, over 6 feet long & over 2 feet wide. They are well stuffed, beautifully upholstered with handsomely colored velour, and when shipped are sent from the factory by freight direct to your address
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Long Live OXIEN, the King of Remedies that Killed it.

No more infernal tortures, no more roastings of the flesh with red hot irons, no more lightning shocks from the electric battery or dosings with dangerous drugs.
RHEUMATISM HAS BEEN CONQUERED by Oxien the triumph of medicine, the Godsend of the age. Absolute cures are now certain, and Oxien is making them every day. In this connection
WE HAVE A WORD TO SAY.
Oxien was last year put to the test as a remedy for Rheumatism and it made a record of absolute cures in Acute Rheumatism, frequently called rheumatic fever, Pericarditis (inflammation of the investing membrane of the heart), Endocarditis (inflammation of the living membrane of the heart), subacute rheumatism, sometimes applied to the less severe attacks of the disease, chronic rheumatism, which swells and twists the joints and sciatica, or neuralgia of the sciatic nerve. In fact Oxien is guaranteed to cure Rheumatism in any form. Thousands jump for joy and many write as follows:
Received OXIEN O. K. Found it far superior to what you represent. Have tried everything I could hear of for rheumatism. For ten years I have been crippled up with this terrible disease. Laid in bed one whole year. Could not turn or feed myself and when I was able to walk on crutches (which I did for four years) was crooked and unable to straighten up, but Oxien did it *and you can imagine how happy I am now. Yours sincerely, Geo. F. Lawton, Olympia, Wash., Feby. 9th, 1898.*
FREE 200,000 BOXES OF RHEUMATISM CURE. FREE.
This momentous offer we make in order to more thoroughly introduce this amazing rheumatism remedy in the United States and Canada. None but those who will give us their word that they either suffer from rheumatism, or are afraid of it through hereditary tendencies will be considered entitled to free treatment. Therefore, if you want a box free send at once, yes to-day. Write plainly as our clerks are badly rushed.
THE GIANT OXIE CO., Box 1120, Augusta, Maine.



EDITOR'S NOTE. The following rules govern the publication of matter in this department.

Contributors must without exception be regular subscribers to Comfort, and every contribution must bear the writer's own name and post-office address in full.

Original letters only, which deal with matters of general interest, will be published. They must be as brief, plain and correct as the writers can make them, and may vary in length from one hundred to four hundred words. Only letters of exceptional merit and interest may reach six hundred and fifty words. Contributors must write on one side of the paper only.

$10 CASH PRIZES $10.

The following cash prizes will be paid monthly:

1st.	For the best original letter	$3.00
2nd.	" " second best original letter	2.50
3rd.	" " third " " "	2.00
4th.	" " fourth " " "	1.50
5th.	" " fifth " " "	1.00

Competitors for these monthly cash prizes must *comply with all the above rules*, and in addition must bring at least one new Cousin into the COMFORT circle; that is, they must send one new subscriber with each letter, together with 50 cents for a yearly subscription.

These cash prizes will be announced monthly in this department.

No premiums will be given for subscriptions sent in under this Prize Offer.

All communications must be addressed to Aunt Minerva, care of COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

CASH PRIZE WINNERS.

Mrs. Austa Austin,	**$3.00**
Elizabeth Wood,	**2.50**
M. B. Thrasher,	**2.00**
Louise Snow,	**1.50**
Cecile Bloomer,	**1.00**

DEAR NIECES AND NEPHEWS:

Vacation is over, and everywhere we once more view the spectacle of

"the whining schoolboy, with his satchel
And shining morning face, creeping like a snail
Unwillingly to school."

The schoolboy, however, is not the only one among us who undervalues his privileges, and frets and chafes at his daily duties, thinking them irksome and sighing to be rid of them. "Blessings brighten as they take their flight," and too often *we* discover, when too late, that our despised and grudgingly performed tasks are our greatest blessings, and our hours of toil the happiest part of our lives. The lesson of contentment with our lot, of using each day and hour as if it were to be the last one granted to us, of seeing the pleasant side of every event and duty, is a hard one for most of us to learn. But enough of moralizing. Let us turn to sheep-shearing.

"In this, the central part of Texas, sheep-shearing is done but once in twelve months, usually in May. In some portions of the State, where brush and brambles abound, the sheep are sheared both in spring and early fall, as the sharp thorns and bushes tear out the wool if it is allowed to grow for a full year. Of course under such circumstances wool-growing is not so profitable as in this section, for the shearing expenses are doubled and a six months' clip does not sell as well as one representing a year's growth.

"Shearing machines are little used here and by far the greater part of the work is done by bands of Mexicans. Their leader, or, as they call him, 'the Captain', makes all contracts and is held responsible for the work done by his entire party. They are very merry at their work and their tongues seem to run as busily as the large, sharp shears with which they rapidly snip the wool. These shears must be frequently ground and sharpened as the dirt in the wool soon dulls them.



GOING TO PASTURE.

Great care is taken to avoid cutting the sheep and to keep the fleece unbroken, and when the last lock falls it is all carefully rolled together and tied with heavy twine. Both skill and practice are required to tie wool properly. The tags are all thrown in the center and only the white, unsoiled part is left in view. As the fleeces accumulate they are placed in large sacks that are suspended from a frame and arranged to swing clear of the ground. As a sack begins to fill, a man climbs into it and firmly tramps the contents. From its greasy nature, wool packs well and the average weight of these sacks, when hauled to market, is two hundred and twenty-five pounds.

"Ram's wool, black wool and dead wool are sacked together and when sold bring but two-thirds as much per pound as first-class wool. Dead wool, in the wool-growers parlance, means the wool picked from sheep that die from poverty, age or disease.

"Although our great State has within its borders more sheep than any other in the Union, very little of our wool is spun, woven and manufactured here. No doubt some of our New England readers could give us an interesting account of the different forms and processes of labor involved in the changing of 'raw wool' into ready-made clothing."

MRS. AUSTA AUSTIN, Atherton, Texas.

Gertrude LaFrentz of Chicago sends us a description of Admiral Dewey's visit to Chicago last May; but as we all read of that in the daily papers at the time I'm afraid I cannot spare room for it now. We thank her, however, for her kind thought for us. I am afraid she forgot that articles are at least three months old when they finally come out in COMFORT.

The following letter is from an old subscriber to and reader of our paper.

"This story is true. In the foothills of Smith Mountains, San Diego county, Cala., is a large Indian reservation, supported by the Government, which also carries on there a school especially for the education of Indian children. In 1894, when I visited that part of the county on a camping trip, a young, beautiful and talented American woman was teaching. She cooked her meals and lived in a house adjoining the school house, and being at a great distance from an American neighbor, she had one of her nieces with her for company. One evening she had a call from the Indian chief himself. In an ugly way he demanded money of her to buy wine. Alarmed at his behavior she tried to coax him, telling him she had no money in the house but would go to town the next day and get some to lend him, but he insisted upon having money at once. At last she succeeded in getting rid of him for the time, but after she and her ten year old niece had retired for the night some one knocked. The aunt got up, but the child slept on until awakened by fire and smoke in the room. The little maid called her auntie, but receiving no answer she thought she must have fled and forgotten her. So, gathering all her dolls in her arms she ran to the nearest Indian hut, where she was made comfortable until morning, when, to their surprise and horror, the remains of the little school teacher were found in the burned house. The chief was arrested, but other Indians proved him to have been far from there at the hour of the fire, and to this day no one knows who murdered and burned the little school madam."

NOLIA FREEMAN, San Diego, Cala.

Now let us cross the ocean for a time and visit the Scottish Abbey of Melrose.

"'If thou wouldst view fair Melrose aright,
Go visit it by the pale moonlight;
For the gay beams of lightsome day
Gild, but to flout, the ruins grey.'

"We were determined to follow Sir Walter Scott's advice as given in his 'Lay of the Last Minstrel', and so when we arrived at the little village of Melrose, we chose the inn that overlooked the old Abbey. We were much afraid it would prove cloudy and we knew there would be no Johnny Bower with his two candles as substitute for the moon, so amusingly told of by Washington Irving in describing his visit to this spot. But Nature favored us, for there was a beautiful moon and we stayed up until long



MELROSE ABBEY.

past midnight and looked out upon the ruins of the grand old Abbey.

"Melrose is a wonderful specimen of Gothic architecture, one of the finest in all England. A square tower rises in the center of this church to a height of eighty-four feet. Only the west side of it is standing. Visible from where we stood was a magnificent five-light window richly decorated in the upper part, and in a state of perfect preservation. But the grandest of all is the great east window, thirty-seven feet high. Its tall, slender shaft ornamented with delicate tracery, which Scott has compared to 'willow wreathes turned to stone', stood out clear in the moonlight and made a picture one could not soon forget.

"Melrose Abbey was founded in 1136, and the monks who lived here were the first order in Scotland. Later this monastery was destroyed by fire and was rebuilt at a vast expense by Robert Bruce in 1326. There were at that time of course several buildings, and all was encircled in a wall one mile in circumference. But now all that remains of Melrose Abbey is the chapel.

"The following morning we visited the interior of the chapel. The principal entrance is through a fine Gothic doorway. Within this old church flowers and grass were growing. The sun shone brightly in, for the roof has long ago crumbled away. Architects from Edinburg and other cities come to Melrose to get inspiration from the wonderful work to be found here. The part above the high altar is singularly beautiful, being covered with finely carvelled work, while the chancel is richly ornamented with groups of flowers. In the cloister we find the remains of the same beautifully carved flowers, of which one architect claims that the finest botanist in the world could not desire better.

"The graves of many persons distinguished in Scottish history are here at Melrose. But there were two that interested us especially. One was the resting place of the heart of Robert Bruce. As we stood there and placed a bunch of Scotch heather and daisies upon the spot we recalled the story as told in history. How Bruce requested his heart to be carried to the Holy Land and how Douglas started on the pilgrimage, but was killed by the Moors in Spain. Then how the heart was rescued and finally brought back to Scotland and interred in Melrose. The other grave was that of the wizard Michael Scott. A flat, mossy stone, broken across the middle, marks the spot. Here, as told by Scott in the 'Lay of the Last Minstrel', was where Deloraine came at midnight and visited the wizard's grave, and wrenched from his lifeless hand the magic volume that gave the secrets of his witchcraft.

"We left Melrose the next day carrying away with us very vivid recollections of the old Abbey and its surroundings."

ELIZABETH WOOD, Batavia, N. Y.

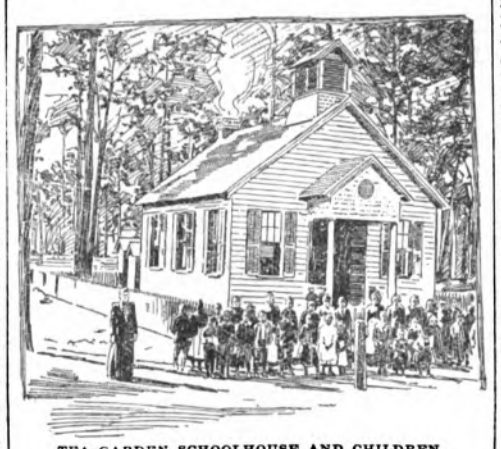
Our cousin, George Johnson, has sent us an account of the burning in April last of Convention Hall in Kansas City, and a list of the meetings previously held in it, together with a description of the rebuilding which was in progress when he wrote, all of which show much evidence of care and painstaking on his part, but I fear would be an old story to my readers by the time this number of COMFORT reaches them.

A pleasant letter from a long-lost cousin, Miss Rosie Strasy, of Iron River, Michigan, lies before me. Welcome back to our band, cousin Rosie. As to the matter of sending a story to COMFORT, read the directions given on the first page of the May number.

From Melrose Abbey to a modern tea garden is a long leap, but not at all too much for the mental powers of my readers, and they will find the following letter on the latter subject very interesting.

"The only tea farm in the United States is here at Summerville, S. C., a charming town in the pine woods twenty miles from Charleston. Only it is not called a 'farm', although it comprises a hundred or more acres. That is one queer thing about the raising of tea; the land on which it is grown, no matter how extensive, is always spoken of as a 'tea garden.'

"Dr. Shepard, who owns the garden, began to experiment in raising tea at Summerville over ten years ago. It was a long, slow business, because he had to try a great many different kinds of seed and soil before he could make the plants grow successfully. Then, too, it takes a plant four years to get so it bears well. Now, however, he has succeeded, and when I first visited the garden he was about finishing picking a crop which, from one small field of less than an acre, had yielded three hundred



TEA-GARDEN SCHOOLHOUSE AND CHILDREN.

pounds of dry tea, worth a dollar a pound. Dr. Shepard makes only black tea. Most people think black and green tea come from different species of the tea plant, but this is not so. The difference comes wholly from different processes of curing the leaf. A tea plant in good condition is from three to four feet high. The top is pruned off frequently so there will be many branches. This is because only the new leaves will make good tea. Just the tip of the branch and the first two leaves are picked. Then the plant will start a new shoot which will grow so it can be picked again in ten days, and this can be kept up for six months of the year. What is better still, a garden once started can be picked for no one knows how long. There are gardens in India and Ceylon which have been picked every year for two hundred years. Dr. Shepard hires negro children to pick for him. Each child wears a trout basket hung about his or her neck and the leaves are dropped through the square hole in the lid. They are paid six cents a pound for picking and make good wages. Dr. Shepard has built a school house on his 'garden' and hires a teacher so that the children can have a good school to go to when they are not at work."

MAX B. THRASHER, Summerville, S. C.

Our last prize letter tells us of a landmark of old Revolutionary times.

"Situated in the eastern portion of North Carolina and county seat of Halifax County, is the little town of Halifax. It is one of the oldest and most renowned towns of the state, and its people, in the days of the Revolution, were most brave and courageous. It also has the reputation of being the first town in the state to celebrate the Declaration of Independence after it was declared in Philadelphia. Here, also, the first Congress was held. In the suburbs, and distant perhaps one hundred yards from the depot, is the old 'Grove House,' once occupied by Mr. William Jones and his wife, both of Revolutionary fame. In the midst of a grove of oak trees it stands an almost ghostly reminder of the dark days when our glorious Union struggled for freedom, and not in vain. As one approaches the house one sees that the once spacious yard is overgrown with weeds. The rotten doorsteps creak as one enters the lofty apartment once known as the reception room, the walls of which are richly adorned with old time fresco work. Beautiful carven wreaths, flowers, angels and dainty cupids all testify to its dead and gone splendor.

"In this house, perhaps in this very room, did Mrs. Jones almost mortally offend Colonel Tarleton. It was just after the Battle of Cowpens, and Cornwallis and his men were quartered in the town of Halifax. Tarleton and his company were quartered with Mr. and Mrs. Jones. Colonel Tarleton was defaming Colonel Washington, saying he 'would like to see Colonel Washington, as he had heard he was very illiterate and scarcely able to write his name.' 'Ah, Colonel,' replied Mrs. Jones, 'you should know better, for you bear proof on your person that he can at least make his mark.' (Colonel Tarleton had been wounded on the finger by a sword in the hands of Colonel Washington at the battle of Cowpens.)

Under these trees did Washington address his little band of brave and daring patriots and incite them to freedom. But alas! the glory of the house has departed and the ruthless hand of decay is upon it. The broken roof, the paneless windows, the hingeless doors all bear proof of neglect and age. So I pass out of the old doorway with many reflections on its departed glory and the noble people who once occupied it."

CECILE BLOOMER, Glenview, N. C.

Here is a very interesting letter on Trenton High Falls and Gorge.

"These falls, formed by the descent of West Canada Creek, on the direct route to the Adirondacks in the Empire state, rank second with Niagara Falls, having no rival in picturesque beauty this side of the Rocky mountains. The creek, rushing along, swollen to a mighty torrent by early spring rains and floods, falls over successive rocky ledges in a chain of charming cascades, between perpendicular walls of solid rock; the constant wear of the stream, through the limestone strata, ever widening and deepening its bed. Twisting through its water-hewn path, the stream—its Indian name Kauyahoora, Leaping-water—precipitates itself into a rugged amphitheater, lined with living green; then, gathering itself into mighty strength, it plunges down into an apparently unfathomable abyss, whence, swirling and foaming, it finds an unseen onward outlet.

"The descent to the bed of the stream is by a stairway of one hundred and twenty-seven steps down into the Great Flume, which has walls smooth as masonry, towering one hundred and fifty feet above. Going up stream, over smooth, natural flagstones, through a gray old glen adorned with flowers, mosses and ferns, the Narrows are reached, where the crowded waters rush turbulently along. The hoarse voice of the falls, screened by the great rock forty feet high, seemingly extending across the chasm, is heard before they are seen. Turning a point, however, the first, Sherman Fall, comes to view. Back in distant aeons this fall



TRENTON FALLS,

made a detour, leaping forty feet across the chasm, cutting out a large amphitheater in solid rock; wearing away in the edge of the precipice, through which it pours like an inverted water-spout. Here the walls rise highest; the roar of falling water is loudest; here rises continually the spray, above which trembles in evanescent beauty the fragile, mist-wreathed rainbow.

A stone stairway cut in solid rock, with stout chain balustrade, gives security to the tourist passing around the gorge under the shelving rocks to the precipice, where the waters plunge with deafening roar.

"Onward a point is rounded, where the Narrows can be seen through the chasm and a vestibule opens to view the High Falls, triple and perpendicular. From the second floor the water, before like cascades of molten gold, bleached from its lovely amber falls in a sheet of alabaster foam, plunging over the third floor in a solid, shining volume. Here is, indeed, a picture in true water-colors, surrounded by its rocky frame embroidered with wild flowers and evergreens. And the falling waters have a rough cadence of mighty melody, into which come, to intensify, undertones and breaks of awful silence.

"Beautiful and unique is Alhambra Cascade, its domain entered by a rounded gateway in the walled rock; a column-like rock beyond bearing on its surface a mass of stones and earth, in which trees have found root and tower skyward. A mile farther on Prospect Fall passes over a solid rock one hundred feet wide, the Trenton limestone clearly showing through the veil-like thinness of the water. For three miles an upper path skirts the long chasm through a natural park back to the entrance of the falls. Where the volume of descending water is greatest the perpendicular walls near each other so closely that the sky is hardly visible from the banks of the creek, in the chasm below. Near the shores the water swirls and eddies, while out in mid-stream the falling torrent, ever singing its wild song and dashing its spray, oft changes color reflected from gray rock and evergreen tree.

LOUISE SNOW, Athens, Pa.

Cousin "Anna" writes:

"I appreciate Comfort more and more."

"Lavergne Fenn's" letter has been read and Aunt Minerva returns thanks for it.

Alliene Conn sends a bright letter descriptive of her home in Moorefield, West Virginia, but it is crowded out and I can only thank her for it.

"The 'Pinnacle' at Cumberland Gap is a delightful place, and people come from far and near to view its wonders and its beauty. The best way to reach it is to walk from Cumberland Gap to its top. On the way are met stones of various hues and shapes and about half way up the mountain are curious caves. From the top of the Pinnacle one sees a view which stretches away into four states—Kentucky, Tennessee, Virginia and North Carolina. The pinnacle rock is very much like a chimney towering hundreds of feet up into the skies."

HATTIE S. DECKER, Barbourville, Ky.

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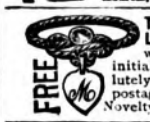
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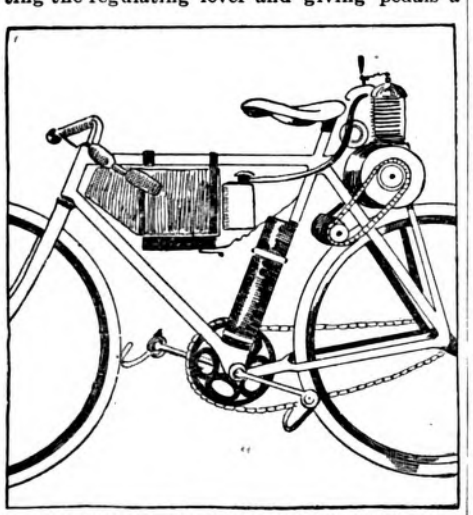


BY EVERETT G. WHEELMAN.

THE unparalleled demand in this country for motor bicycles has found American makers almost wholly unprepared to supply it, with the result that far-seeing and shrewd cycle dealers here have been employing agents in Europe to secure for them the American rights for various makes of the two-wheeled self-propelled vehicles, the manufacturers of which are prepared to begin shipment at once. Among the first Americans to secure the agency for a foreign motor bicycle are the Banker Brothers, of Pittsburg, famous racing men, who are now marketing the Werner motor-cyclette, an illustration of which is here shown. This motor bicycle is manufactured by Werner Bros. of Paris, and resembles an ordinary bicycle in construction, although somewhat heavier, especially the front forks, which are re-enforced to bear the weight of the motor, which is carried in front of the head. The motor is supported on th tops of the front forks and the handle-bar stem, and the entire mechanism turns with the movements of the handle-bar in steering. Attached to the front wheel is a pulley a few inches smaller in diameter than the wheel itself. From this pulley to a much smaller one on the motor shaft runs a belt for transmitting the power. The gasoline tank, spark coil and battery are carried in the frame of the machine and are so compact as to interfere little if any with the rider's legs when he assists the motor up grades or against head winds. The rear wheel is fitted with a coaster brake, and the engine is started in the usual manner by the rider making a few revolutions with the pedals. Once started, the rider may use the pedal as footrests or to assist the motor. The weight of the entire machine is but sixty-five pounds.

The trouble with the introduction of a motor for a bicycle is that the motors made thus far to be attached to a bicycle or tandem are cumbersome, heavy and unsightly. With most of the motors the average wheelman would not care to push the load even on a level road. Electricians are at work trying to devise a scheme for a storage battery with most of the mechanism concealed in the tubing of the frame. One firm believes that it has discovered a method which will prove to be practicable and the claim is made that little additional weight will be added to the machine. The majority of the bicycle makers are progressive men, and while they would welcome any motor which would prove to be practicable when attached to a single wheel, most of them say that the time for the introduction for such an invention has not arrived yet. It is said that the expert mechanics are now at work at some of the factories upon a wheel for next year which may astonish the cycling world. The bicycle is to be a "two-speed" affair, and it will have a coaster brake, a cushion frame and no chain. The "two-speed" arrangement has been tried with varying success and failure for several years, but it never met much popularity. A rod will extend from the handle-bar to the rear hub, so that a slight pressure of the finger will change the gear from, say, ninety used on a level road, to about sixty when a hill or head wind has been encountered. There are many little points of excellence being considered for next season.

A New York city inventor has disposed of his patent rights in the ingenious bicycle motor here shown, to a company formed for the purpose. The main feature of this device is the unique method of transmitting power from the motor to a friction pulley, which is in contact with the rear tire. The motor wheel and the friction wheel are each provided with sprocket wheels, the power being transmitted by means of small chains of the kind usually seen on bicycles, the complete motor and fittings being sold for $100. The friction wheel is of aluminum bronze, and presses on the sides of the tire, thus avoiding wear on the tread. A coaster brake should be used in connection with this motor, in order to rest or assist the motor at will. The wheel here shown is fitted with a gasoline tank, carrying sufficient fuel for a 75-mile journey. After starting, which is done by the rider setting the regulating lever and giving pedals a few turns, the entire apparatus may be controlled by one lever, located near the handle-bar.



FRICTION MOTOR ATTACHED TO BICYCLE.

There are few buyers of bicycles who understand that the style of brazing the joints has to do with the general strength of the wheel. Some of the old riders do, and they are strong in their adherence to some particular style of brazing. The general impression seems to be that of the ordinary styles of connections, one is just about as strong as the other. When makers show something out of the ordinary in reinforcements they claim that theirs is the only strong construction for a bicycle.

Brazing, as about one-half the wheelmen of the country know, is accomplished by covering with brass the inside of one tube and the outside of another, over which an end of the first one fits. Then enough heat is applied to make the tubes red hot. When the heat is withdrawn the joint is firmly made, and the point of connection will stand as much strain as any other part of the tube. It is plain that if the two ends of tubes were merely brought together and fastened at the ends the joints would not be as strong as if the tubes were lapped. This gives rise to the name of lap-brazing, which many people believe to be the only form in which the ends are lapped. This is not so. It is simply the name given to the first form of brazing of this character. Lap-brazing is properly the form used to fasten one tube to another at an angle. One tube is split and the end is drawn around another and brazed in that position. This lapping is the same as an outside reinforcement. Subsequently the name was applied also to the outside joint where the tubes meet end to end. One advantage that this manner of brazing has over others is that the connection is made on the outside of the tube and a wider surface enters into this connection.

The Northwestern Railway of London has just tried a new car, built especially for the transportation of bicycles belonging to passengers. The system adopted is the device of Mr. Boff, a Rugby official of the company, and seems about the best which has yet been put into operation. The van is furnished with two sets of holders or clamps, each of which, easily adjusted to the height and length of the bicycle, holds it immovable. One set is fitted



THE WERNER MOTOR-CYCLETTE.

to one side of the van, and the clamp, grasping the handle-bar, holds the machine upright on the floor apart from its fellows. The other suspends a second row of bicycles from the roof, where the handle-bars are securely hooked to a bar running the whole length of the car, the rear wheel resting on a deeply grooved plate folding down from the side of the wall. When not in use these clamps fold up against the side wall and are out of the way. Each car can accommodate forty-four bicycles as well as other luggage, and each bicycle can be got in at an instant and cannot be jolted out of its place or in any way disturbed by the motion of the train. It is the intention of the company to build twenty similar vans for the summer traffic.

A veteran tourist gives this advice: "I have more than once heard wheelmen explain that when that moment arrives to them which arrives sooner or later to every wheelman—when a brake alone stands between them and death or serious injury to others besides themselves—they can do all the stopping necessary by the application of the sole of the boot to the rear portion of the front tire. I trust no rider will allow himself to follow so inconvenient and dangerous an example. No coasting can be indulged in, no sudden braking is possible, and there exists always the possibility of the foot being jammed in the fork, as happened in the late accident near London, where a wheelman was found lying dead on the road by the side of his mangled, brakeless machine, with one foot fixed in the front fork. Evidently the unhappy man had come to his end by this perilous method of attempting to arrest the progress of his machine.

Some discussion is going on as to the proper position of a woman on a bicycle. For a long time women sat low in the saddle, far back, with the peaks up in the air, and the handles high and awkward. This season there has been a distinct change. The riders now prefer high framed machines and saddles well forward. The position thus effected is more dignified than the old style, but women should be careful not to raise their saddles too high. It is not infrequent at present to see a woman rider just able to touch the pedals at the bottom of the stroke with her toe. This means that she loses considerable pedalling power. The exact distance of the pedal at the bottom of the stroke should be such that the rider can hold the pedal with her heel.

"There goes a rider who knows how to ride a wheel," said an agent whose store overlooks a cycling thoroughfare. "You will notice," he continued, "that she rides easily and that from the waist up her body does not move. It is maintained always directly over the center line of her bicycle; that is why the front wheel runs straight and does not swing from side to side as you notice it with so many women riders, and even with a great many men also. Neither does she lunge forward with her shoulders at each pressure of the pedals. What is the result? She maintains a smooth, even, steady gait, and seems to be riding without effort. She is getting all the speed out of the wheel that she is capable of, but if she practiced the objectionable tactics I have mentioned she would not be able to ride so fast or so far. You will also notice how rapidly her feet are moving. It is plain that she is riding a low gear wheel, possibly sixty. Right here lies one of the greatest troubles women riders have. The gears are altogether too high. In the effort to keep up with their stronger brethren women are riding gears anywhere from seventy to eighty-four. Whether through carelessness, or because they think there is a demand for them, most makers are equipping women's wheels with gears above seventy. This practice will eventually do more to injure the bicycle than any amount of talking will undo. As soon as the point where cycling is an easy exercise is passed, harm is being done. When a woman looks ungraceful on a wheel, in nine cases out of ten the fault lies in the gear of her bicycle. In the years when a gear in the neighborhood of sixty was considered high for a woman there were far more women riding wheels than there are to-day. I would advocate the use of a fifty-two gear for a woman who finds difficulty in pushing a higher one. It is foolish to argue that it is not pleasanter to make more revolutions of the pedal with less muscular effort."

One of the interesting features at the Paris Exposition will be the bicycle racing, which is set for September 9 to 16, thus giving Americans ample time to get in good condition before they start for the other side. The conditions governing the races will be as follows:

The races are open to professional or amateur racers, possessing the license of the Union Velocipedique de France, or licenses recognized by the Union Velocipedique de France. Entries close August 21.

No entry will be received unless it be accompanied by the entry fees, fixed as follows:

Grand prize of the Exposition, 20 francs.
Premium race, 5 francs.
Handicap, 5 francs.
Tandem race, 5 francs a man.
Interrigional race, 5 francs a man.
Criterium of middle distance, 10 francs.
Fifty kilometre race, 10 francs.
Grand race of the nations, 5 francs a man.
Foreigners' prize, 5 francs.
Gold cup race, 50 francs.

All the races except the handicap and the premium race will carry the absolute necessity of starting.

In the following trials, criterium of middle distance, fifty kilometre race and gold cup race, the entered contestants must show to the committee for the race a sufficient number of pacemakers, in default of which the racers entered may be refused.

The entries must contain the name and surname of the racer, his address, his nationality, his colors.

One of the oddest uses to which bicycles have been put this year is mounting a corps of detectives upon them. A bodyguard of six detectives, supposed to be Scotland Yard men, have been following the carriage of Queen Victoria on bicycles to guard her against dynamiters. These riders have been going through this daily task for the past two months. Each day when Her Majesty goes driving the wheelmen fall in behind, and turning when the royal carriage turns, follow it throughout the ride. The secret was out when spectators noticed that the wheelmen followed the mounted police into the guarded grounds of the Vice-Regal Lodge. It is not yet developed whether or not the escort is mounted on wheels made by those "enterprising Americans."

Many riders have a horror of toe clips. They imagine that the foot is held as in a wedge so that it is impossible to dismount quickly. As one who formerly rode without clips, but who for the last three or four years has regularly used them, I can say that this danger is only apparent. One's foot comes away quite easily from a toe clip. On the other hand, the clip is a distinct advantage in that it keeps the foot firm, affording a steady hold. When running at high speed down hill one does not lose the pedal, as sometimes happens when there are no clips.

Some call it lazy to mount a bicycle from the curbstone and rather undignified to hop along the road on one foot, with the other on the step. The best way to mount, in the opinion of experts, is to hold the handle-bars easily, walk along the left side of the machine rather sharply, and then, without stopping, put the left foot on the step and spring into the saddle. A good rider always seizes the moment for doing so when the right pedal is on the upward move, so that his foot catches it at the summit, and he is able to pedal right away.

Two bicyclists passing through a small town on the Long Island shore, decided to take the train from there home. Being unfamiliar with the place, they stopped to inquire of a colored woman the way to the railway station.

"We are strangers," they said, "would you kindly direct us to the station?"

"Certainly, sir," she replied. "Keep a goin' on till yo' comes to de corner wha de ole post-office used ter be, den tu'n to yo' lef' an' you'll go right to de station."

As they rode off she beamed with pride, they with amusement; and, although they found the station they have yet to discover the "corner wha de ole postoffice used ter be."

I must repeat what I have already said many times, that I cannot possibly undertake to give the addresses of dealers either in this column or privately.

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GOLDEN MOMENTS, Augusta, Maine.

Julia Ward Howe Tells How She Wrote the "Battle Hymn of the Republic."

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



MRS. JULIA WARD Howe was eighty-two years old, May 27, 1900. She is just three days younger than Queen Victoria, who was eighty-two the twenty-fourth day of the same month.

Few women of half the age begin to accomplish the work which Mrs. Howe has done at eighty. Her long life has been lived in the very thickest of the affairs which have made history during her time. The wide knowledge of men and things which this experience has given her, coupled with the discerning judgment which she has always displayed, makes her advice and counsel sought by those who are interested in public and philanthropic work, while her personal charm of manner makes her no less sought for the pleasure which is to be derived from her society. As a result there is hardly a day in the year when she is not asked to address some club, preside at some gathering or advise some one as to the best way of carrying out some task which has been undertaken.

How well she does all these things one has only to see her to know. Her step may be a little slower, her hair a bit more gray, with each year, but if this be so the sweet dignity of added age charms away any appreciation of the fact.

I do not mean by this that Mrs. Howe does not fully realize her years. She does; and refers to them openly, often with such delightful humor that it is plain age has no threats for her. Not long ago, when she was speaking at a meeting of women in All Souls' Unitarian Church, in New York City, Mrs. Howe's voice grew tired, so that she was not able to make those in the back part of the building hear her plainly. Some one sitting there asked, "Can Mrs. Howe raise her voice?"

"No," replied Mrs. Howe, frankly, adding, "I said yesterday that I should not kill myself, even for this august body. You can't expect an old lady of eighty to explode in one gigantic effort."

There was a general laugh at this calm statement of the situation, and then the women in the back part of the room, young and old, elegantly dressed, went forward and sat down flat on the floor in the aisles and around the platform, the only unoccupied space, that they might be where they could hear the rest of the address.

About the same time Mrs. Howe presided at a meeting of the Authors' Club, of Boston. When she rose to speak, to introduce Colonel Wentworth Higginson, who was to deliver an address, she said: "I don't know why I should occupy the position I hold, except that every well-regulated family has an old grandmother who often has the best chair. She is not expected to say much, for she does not speak the same language."

A little later she said: "I cannot help remembering when it was said, 'Who ever reads an American book?' Now it may well be asked, 'Who does not read a good American book, as often as it can be published?'"

No doubt Mrs. Howe is best known to the Nation in general as the author of the "Battle Hymn of the Republic." There are few who cannot repeat some or part of that lyric which begins,

"Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord."

There is a martial swing to the hymn which, let it once be heard, makes it cling in the mind and heart as does the melody to which its lines are oftenest sung.

I have heard Mrs. Howe recite the Battle Hymn more than once, and often amid very striking surroundings, as once in the Old South Church, in Boston, but I find that one special occasion is going to remain fixed in my mind, both for the sake of the associations connected with it, and because Mrs. Howe at that time told her audience how she came to write the hymn.

On the nineteenth of April, of every year, there is a service at Concord, Massachusetts, to commemorate the Concord Fight, that inaugural Revolutionary battle to which Paul Revere's wild night ride through the Middlesex farms roused the settlers. A few years ago I attended that service. One feature of the celebration that year was a great meeting of children and young people, whom Mrs. Howe was to address. This meeting was held in the historic old First Church of Concord, the same building in which Revolutionary meetings have been held, and in which Revolutionary orators have shouted defiance.

The First Church is one of those bare white "meeting houses," of the style of those early days, a style which has a dignity all its own, impressive in its very simplicity. The pulpit is large and high. On this occasion an enormous American flag had been flung over the pulpit, and when Mrs. Howe came out on the low platform to speak, her whole body was outlined against this flag as a background. Those who had the meeting in charge had shown their good taste by leaving the simple beauty of the church unadorned except by this one flag and by two great jars of magnificent Easter lilies, placed one at each end of the platform. Any one who has seen Mrs. Howe can imagine what a beautiful picture she made as she stood there between the lilies, in front of the flag, especially when, in reciting the poem, she came to the lines,

"In the beauty of the lilies Christ was born across the sea,
With a glory in his bosom that transfigures you and me;
As He died to make men holy, let us die to make men free,
While God is marching on."

Her story of the writing of the Battle Hymn, so nearly as I can tell it in her own words, was this:

"When the War of the Rebellion began it was a very great sorrow to me that I could not do something for my country. Other women whom I knew had sent those whom they loved, to fight, or perhaps had even gone themselves, as nurses. For me, though, the way seemed closed. My husband at that time was in too infirm health to go as a soldier and my children were not only too young to go themselves but so young that I could not leave them, even if there had been a way opened for me to go. I felt it was a great hardship.

"After the war had been in progress for some time I went to Washington in company with my husband and my pastor, Rev. James Freeman Clarke. We were to transact some business in connection with one of the committees organized to help the cause. While there we drove out one day some distance from the city to see a great review of troops which had been planned. There was a very large force of soldiers encamped about Washington then—many thousand men—for the enemy were reported to be close at hand. While this review was in progress there came a sudden alarm, a rumor of a skirmish not far away, and great confusion was the result. The review was given up, and the troops poured back towards the city. The road was so full of men that our carriage could drive only very slowly. All around us, in front, behind, and spreading out on both sides into the fields, were the men. There was uneasiness and concern everywhere. Finally some one in our carriage began to sing 'John Brown's Body.' Some of the men who were nearest caught up the song, and then others, until soon there was a great volume of song. It cheered and reassured us.

"After we had stopped singing Dr. Clarke said to me, 'Why do you not write some new words for that music, Mrs. Howe? Such a noble melody as that deserves them.'

"I said that I had thought that myself, and had tried to write something which would fit the music, but had never been able to produce anything which seemed to me worthy of it. The matter was not discussed afterwards and I forgot all about it before we got back to the city.

"The next morning I woke suddenly from a sound sleep, long before my usual hour for waking. There was only the very faintest trace of daylight. I could not see that anything had wakened me. As I lay there in bed the first lines of a hymn came into my mind, the lines beginning,—

"Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord.

"Other words followed. I rose and throwing a wrap around me, found pencil and paper, and there in the early dawn, in light so faint I could hardly distinguish the lines I traced, wrote out the whole of the hymn. It was all done in a few minutes. One line came to me as soon as the preceding one was written. When the last was written I went back to bed again, went fast asleep and slept until my usual time to rise.

"The hymn became popular at once, and soon came to be spoken of as a great help to the cause which I loved. The lesson which I learned from it was that if one really wants to do something for some one else, for humanity, for country, for God, God himself will open an opportunity in His own time and way. Just have the disposition and the chance will come."

The most renowned natural bridges in the world are in the Western Continent. Two in South America; between Bogota and Quito; one in Virginia, called the "Natural Bridge of Virginia," over Cedar Creek; one in Kentucky, in Carter County, and one in Alabama.

A SHEEP PEST.



SHEEP raisers in New Zealand find that their flocks are greatly annoyed by a bird called the kea, or mountain parrot. This bird attacks the sheep and with its strong sharp beak pecks through the poor animal's hide to get at the fat under the skin. How this habit started with the birds is uncertain and various explanations have been offered, among them one quite interesting and plausible.

In the hilly district of New Zealand grows a kind of lichen which resembles a bunch of wool, and at the roots of which are found grubs which are the favorite food of the kea. Probably the birds were misled by the resemblance at first, and finding the sheep good feeding ground have developed the new habit.

The largest known cave in the world is Mammoth Cave of Kentucky. It is about one hundred and thirty miles from Louisville, in Edmonson county. It was purchased by Col. Crogan, of Louisville, about seventy-two years ago, for $10,000, and so celebrated did it soon become that he was offered, a short time after, ten times as much. But he was not willing to sell it, and he so arranged it in his will that it must remain in his family for two hundred years. It has been explored for fifteen miles or more in various directions, and it is a resort for sight-seers from all parts of the world.

$3.00 a day sure. Without doubt a great opportunity. For particulars see last page of this paper.

A POCKET LUXURY

Is a tortoise shell comb in a neat and fancy case, always handy and useful; good for men, women, school children and the soldiers. We will send one with our great catalogue of thousands of bargains for only six cents. Address, Comfort, Augusta, Maine.

$5.00 SHAVING SET FREE

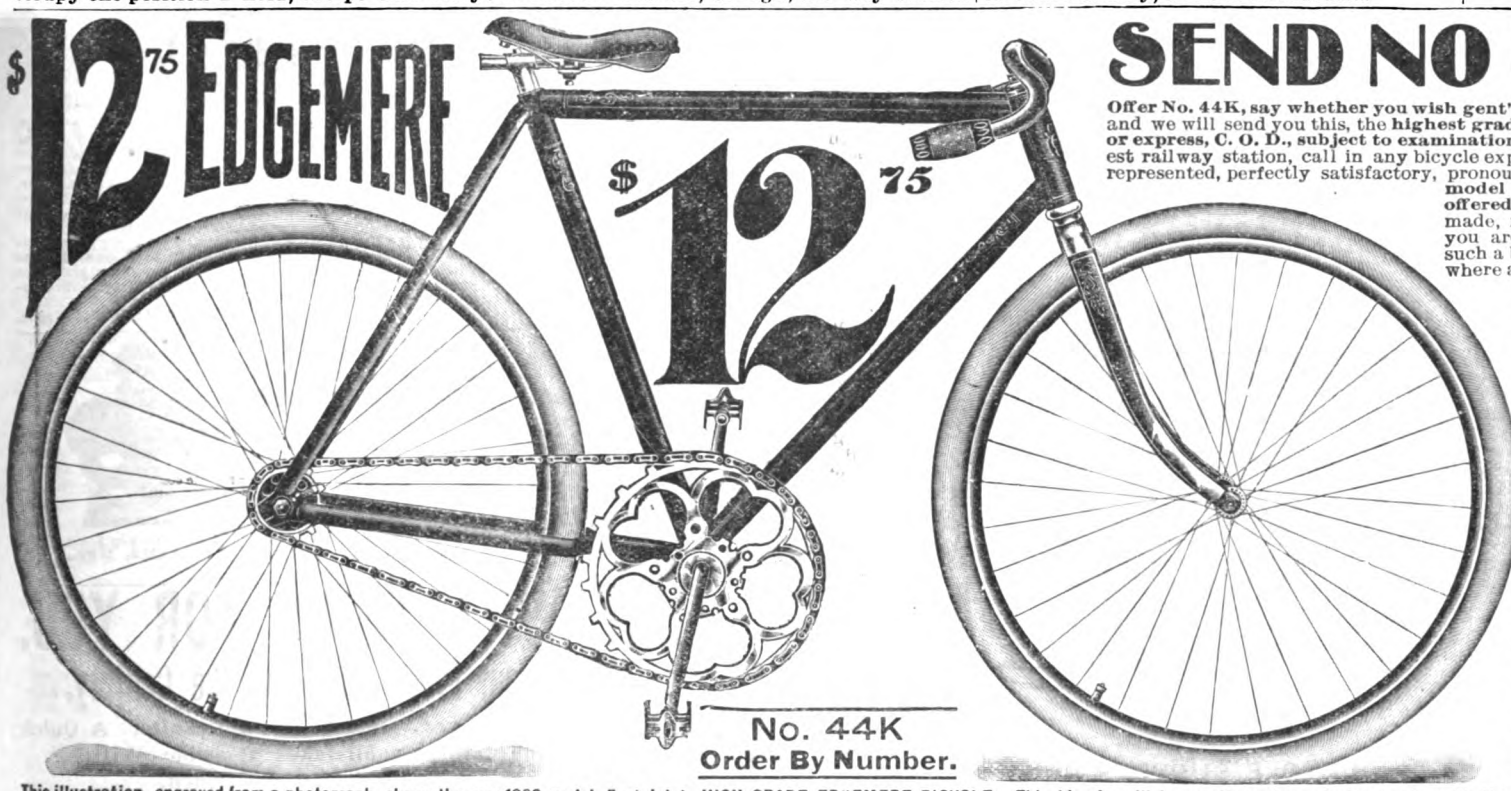


for selling only six of our **Electric Porous Plasters.** We want to prove there is a sure prevention and cure for **Lame Back, La Grippe, Coughs, Colds, Pneumonia, Rheumatism,** etc. etc., and will send you six of our 25c. Plasters which you are to sell and return the money ($1.50) to us and we will send you all charges paid, the **elegant Shaving Set** packed in a case eight inches long, six inches wide and five inches high. The combination consists of 1 Royal Steel Swedish Razor, single value, $3.00; 1 Genuine, Horsehide, Double, Reversible, Canvass-back, Nickle-hung, Ebonized handle Razor Strop, value $1.00; 1 Real China Shaving Mug; 1 Cake Star Shaving Soap; 1 Best Bristle, large handle Lather Brush; 1 Cake Perfumed Lump Magnesia; 1 Stick rich perfumed Cosmetic, making a grand $5.00 combination. **Every man** should have an outfit in the house for emergency's use. **Every Woman** should see to it that either her **Father,** her **Husband,** her **Brother** or her **Sweetheart** has one of these outfits. They make the best presents one can give to a gentleman.

Don't wait but send to-day for Plasters. One agent sold the six in six minutes. Address

THE G. O. PLASTER CO., Box 1229, Augusta, Maine.

$12.75 EDGEMERE



No. 44K
Order By Number.

This illustration, engraved from a photograph, shows the new 1900 model, flush joint, HIGH GRADE EDGEMERE BICYCLE. This bicycle will be exactly as shown in illustration with the exception of the sprocket, which come in a variety of patterns, and the handle bars, which are furnished either up or down turned, as desired.

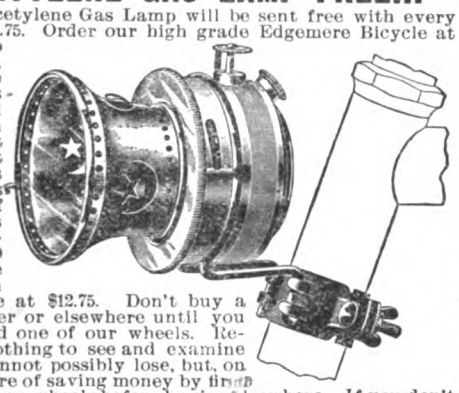
SEND NO MONEY Cut this advertisement out and send to us, mention Special Offer No. 44K, say whether you wish gent's or ladies' bicycle, whether 22 or 24-inch frame, and we will send you this, the **highest grade 1900 model Edgemere Bicycle by freight or express, C. O. D., subject to examination.** You can examine it thoroughly at your nearest railway station, call in any bicycle expert to examine it, and if you find it exactly as represented, perfectly satisfactory, pronounced by everyone a **strictly high grade 1900 model wheel, the greatest bicycle bargain ever offered** and for all purposes the equal of any bicycle made, regardless of price; if you are convinced that you are saving from **$20.00 to $30.00,** and getting such a bicycle as you could not get elsewhere at anything like the price, pay your railroad agent our special offer price **$12.75** and freight or express charges, which will average from 50 to 75 cents for each 500 miles.

TEN DAYS' TRIAL OFFER. After you pay the railroad agent our special offer price of $12.75, give the bicycle ten days' trial, during which time compare it with other bicycles that sell at double the price, and if you are still not satisfied that you have saved $20.00 to $30.00, and that you have the greatest bicycle value ever furnished, you can return the bicycle to us at our expense of freight or express charges both ways and we will immediately return your money.

OUR FREE EXAMINATION OFFER. To give everyone an opportunity to see and examine our celebrated **high grade, flush joint Edgemere Bicycle,** and compare it with wheels that others sell at $25.00 to $40.00, you need not send one cent of money; simply mention special offer No. 44K, state whether you wish ladies' or gents' wheel, height of frame, color and gear wanted, and we will send you the bicycle, **together with the free gas lamp,** by express C. O. D., subject to examination. You can examine it at your nearest railroad station, and if found perfectly satisfactory, exactly as represented, the equal of bicycles that others sell at $25.00 to $40.00, if everyone who sees the wheel pronounces it the greatest bargain ever seen in a high grade bicycle, you can pay the express agent our **SPECIAL OFFER PRICE, $12.75 AND EXPRESS CHARGES.**

...$2.00 ACETYLENE GAS LAMP FREE...

This regular $2.00 Acetylene Gas Lamp will be sent free with every Edgemere Bicycle at $12.75. Order our high grade Edgemere Bicycle at $12.75 on our liberal no deposit, C. O. D. terms, and we will send with the bicycle (no charge) this handsome nickel plated lamp, which we furnish in a variety of the latest 1900 style patterns. It makes its own gas, gives a very powerful light, is very economical, one of the best bicycle lamps made, such a lamp as retails everywhere at $2.00 to $2.50, and you get the lamp for nothing with every Edgemere Bicycle at $12.75. Don't buy a bicycle from your dealer or elsewhere until you have seen and examined one of our wheels. Remember, it costs you nothing to see and examine the Edgemere. You cannot possibly lose, but, on the contrary, you are sure of saving money by first seeing and examining our wheels before buying elsewhere. If you don't find our wheels better in quality and lower in price we won't expect you to take the bicycle, but you can return it at our expense.



(Sears, Roebuck & Co. are thoroughly reliable.—Editor.)

$12.75 FOR A STRICTLY HIGH GRADE up-to-date new model bicycle, with all the very latest features, including flush joints throughout, two-piece hanger, all the latest improvements, all the good points of all other high grade wheels, **IS A PRICE HERETOFORE UNKNOWN,** and when you get the bicycle and the high grade gas lamp (a lamp which you would pay your dealer at least $2.00 for) at **$12.75, you should not fail to get your order in at once.** Remember our $12.75 price is guaranteed only until our present stock is exhausted.

OUR CHALLENGE OFFER ORDER THIS OUR NEW 1900 MODEL EDGEMERE AT $12.75 AND YOU CAN THEN ORDER A BICYCLE from any other house or houses advertised in this or any other paper, let the different bicycles come to your nearest railroad station to be examined, examine and compare them side by side, and if our bicycle is not pronounced by everyone at least $15.00 cheaper in price and $20.00 better in quality, you can return it to us at our expense.

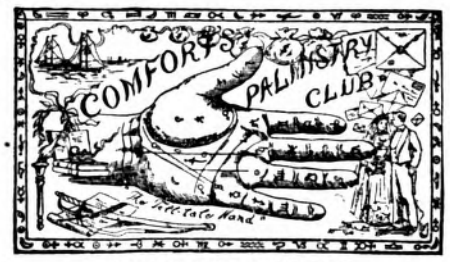
OUR BINDING GUARANTEE. With every Edgemere Bicycle we issue a written binding one-year guarantee (which accompanies every wheel) by the terms and conditions of which if any piece or part gives out within one year by reason of defect in material or workmanship, we will replace or repair it free of charge. With the tires we issue the Association's strongest 60 days' guarantee.

THE EDGEMERE BICYCLES are made by one of the best bicycle makers in America. They are the equal of bicycles that sell everywhere at $35.00 to $50.00; they are made from the best material that money can buy, made on the very latest lines, new models for 1900. They embody every new and up-to-date feature of every other high grade bicycle made, with the defects of none. They have the latest high grade Denton hanger, they are flush at every joint, 22 or 24-inch frame, made from 1⅛-inch cold drawn seamless tubing. The connections are all the finest steel forgings and stampings, handsomely finished; very latest arch crown, handsomely curved, shaped and finished; handsome tapering fork. They have the very latest diamond frame in the gent's style, a handsome drop curved frame in the ladies. **The wheels are the highest grade 28-inch, fitted with genuine Hercules spokes, full finished; the very best air-seasoned rock elm rims are used; fine large size tubular hubs, made from bar steel, heavily nickel plated; cranks made from the finest forgings; bearings from tool steel hardened in oil, accurately trued to gauge; sprockets are made from selected forgings, heavily nickel plated,** and they come in a variety of handsome patterns.

WE FURNISH WITH THE EDGEMERE BICYCLE at our $12.75 price, our own special high grade, season guaranteed, Seroco single tube pneumatic tires, a pair of the highest grade tires made, complete with tire repair outfit. The bicycle is fully equipped with a high grade chain, high grade ball-bearing adjustable pedals, full padded saddle, up or down turned handle bars, as desired; tool bag, pump, wrench, oiler and tire repair kit. **The bicycles are beautifully finished, handsomely decorated and ornamented.** They come regularly in plain and solid black, highly enameled, which makes by far the richest appearing wheel. We also furnish them in green and maroon with striped line ornamentations, when so desired. All usual parts are heavily nickel plated on copper.

800 TO GO AT $12.75. We have bought every Edgemere Bicycle the factory had, between 800 and 900. We bought them at less than the cost to build, and until the last wheel is gone we will furnish them in any quantity at the heretofore unheard-of-price of $12.75. Don't delay until all these wheels are sold; **don't wait until next season to buy a bicycle.** You will never again have an opportunity to get a strictly high grade wheel, such as the Edgemere, at anything like our present special close out offer price of **$12.75. ORDER TODAY. DON'T DELAY.**

REMEMBER, $12.75 ONLY UNTIL THE LAST HIGH GRADE EDGEMERE BICYCLE IS SOLD. Address, **SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO. (Inc.), CHICAGO, ILLINOIS.**



CONDUCTED BY DIGITUS.

CONDITIONS.

To have one's hands read in this department, by Digitus, one of the finest living palmists, it is necessary to observe the following conditions:

Impressions of both hands must be sent, fully postpaid and having the name, address and nom de plume of the sender enclosed in the package also.

The package must in every instance be accompanied by the names and addresses of eight new subscribers at twenty-five cents each, the whole amount, $2.00 being remitted, with the package, addressed to COMFORT PALMISTRY CLUB, Augusta, Maine.

No notice will be taken of impressions and requests for readings unless the sender has fully complied with the above conditions.

To take impressions, first hold two large pieces of blank paper over a candle or similar flame, until they are heavily coated with the smoke. Then lay these pieces down, smoke side uppermost on a pad of cotton. Now place the two hands, palms downward, one on each sheet of paper, pressing firmly and steadily down, but taking care not to move the hand. Keep them so for one minute and lift carefully, so as not to disturb the impression. Have ready some fixatif, which can be bought at a drug store or an art store or made with gum arabic and water in an atomizer. Spray this over the impressions before they are moved and allow them to dry. Then they are ready to send.

Smoked paper impressions are the best. But if it is desired to send a plaster cast, take plaster of Paris and dissolve in water to the consistency of thick cream. Pour this into a large shallow dish and when it is hardening place the hand, well-greased, palm downward, in the plaster, pressing downward. Several minutes will be required to get this impression and great care must be taken in removing the hand, not to break the plaster. Casts are exceedingly difficult to send without breaking and should be very carefully packed in a box with the name of the sender written on it. Putty is sometimes successfully used in place of plaster. A good photograph if sufficiently well taken to bring out all the lines, can also be read, although in all cases the smoked paper is the best, if properly treated with fixatif.

Bear in Mind that all the above conditions must be observed.

Also, that letters not complying with them will go into the waste-basket. Readings cannot appear for several months after impressions are sent.

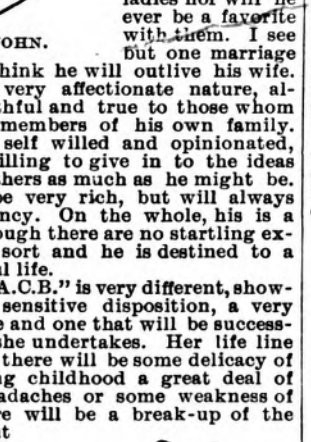
IT may be well to state at the beginning for the benefit of others as well as for that of "W. H. S., Jr.," that when a back number of COMFORT is wanted for the purpose of seeing your life readings or any other reason, any number may be had by applying to the publishers at Augusta. We editors of departments do not keep a lot of back numbers by us, but the publishers will be glad to supply any number that is wanted on the receipt of five cents.

The first hand which I shall read this month belongs to "Tullas John." He has a good strong hand showing a long life and good health after he comes to be fifteen or so. The life line is uncommonly long and he will live to be well on towards a hundred. He has not had the courage of his convictions always and he is always a little afraid to start out with new ideas. He prefers being guided by others to looking after his own affairs and for that reason will be more successful when in business with others than he will in running a business for himself. He is a faithful, conscientious worker, honest and trustworthy. He will be a favorite with the men for whom he works, but he is not much given to the society of ladies nor will he ever be a favorite with them. I see but one marriage for him, but I think he will outlive his wife. He has not a very affectionate nature, although he is faithful and true to those whom he loves, or to members of his own family. He is somewhat self willed and opinionated, evidently not willing to give in to the ideas and wishes of others as much as he might be. He will never be very rich, but will always have a competency. On the whole, his is a good hand, although there are no startling experiences of any sort and he is destined to a rather uneventful life.



TULLAS JOHN.

The hand of "A.C.B." is very different, showing a nervous, sensitive disposition, a very ambitious nature and one that will be successful in whatever she undertakes. Her life line is long, too, but there will be some delicacy of health and during childhood a great deal of trouble with headaches or some weakness of the brain. There will be a break-up of the health at about fifty, but I think the subject will live on a great many years after that and perhaps see the best of her life then. A line running from the inside of the life line, or the edge of the Mount of Venus straight up onto the Mount of Jupiter indicates a very strong ambition and the square with which it ends shows that there will be a protection from the evil effects of such an ambition. The fate line is very strong and very successful. A person with such a fate line as she has in her right hand could scarcely fail of success. She has the endorsement or the help of some woman early in life, but after that depends more upon her own resources and will marry between the ages of twenty-five and thirty. She will gain wealth and distinction, especially after she is thirty-five years old and she has great gifts for the platform. If she were to go on the stage or even on the political platform, she would make a great success. She will travel a great deal and her life will be broken up by a constant succession of events. There will be no dullness or lack of variety in her life, nor is there in her character. On the whole, hers is a very fortunate and very interesting hand. She is very attractive to the opposite sex and will always have plenty of admirers. She is very faithful in her affections, however, high minded and trustworthy. She is poetic in temperament, loves art and good literature and will make a good musician.



A. C. B.

In sending hands for reading this winter, please be careful to follow the directions given above.

I am going to give you a few rules for observing the head line:

In its best aspects it should leave the line of life at its immediate commencement and make a strong ray across the hand to the top of the Mount of the Moon without ramifications or branches. Such a formation gives us good sense, strong will power, clear judgment and cleverness. If it is too short, it shows either a weak will or an early death. If it is chained and branched, it gives a weak uncertain mind and if it is unequal in thickness it gives avarice and a want of spirit. If it is long and straight across the hand covering the entire hand it also denotes avarice and parsimony. A long line of head gives domination to the character and self reliance. If a hand is much lined and covered with fine rays which indicate nervous and excitable temperament, a long head line with it, such as in the hand of "A. C. B." for instance, gives great self control and coolness in difficulties.

If the head line remains joined to the life line way out under the Mount of Saturn, it shows that education and brain development came late in life. A sudden death is foreshadowed by a short head line when the life line is short also. The head line must lie at a good regular distance from the heart line throughout the length. It is not a good sign to have the space between the head and heart lines narrow at one end and wide at the other.

At the same time an extremely good head line will over-rule bad signs in the hand, especially if the Mount of Mars is high. The combination of the Mount of Mars high and a good head line, gives energy, coolness, a power of resistance, circumspection and constancy that well equip a man for his battle with life. It is a bad sign for the head line to stop under the Mount of Saturn, or even under the third finger, as that indicates inconstancy and a disordered mind. When it is joined to the life line too long before leaving it to go across the hand, it shows a lack of confidence in one's self.

When the head line turns under the finger of Saturn and runs way down towards the wrist it is a pretty sure sign of suicide. This sign, however, should not be confounded with the one which sometimes traces an oblique course to a point part way down on the Mount of the Moon, which indicates imagination and idealism with a romantic tendency towards mysticism and even folly. If this line drooping down the Mount of the Moon in that way cuts the line of health in both hands, it indicates a tendency to insanity, but in an otherwise strong hand the head line drooping onto the Mount of the Moon gives a love of the occult and the superstitious and in many instances a talent for literature.

The line of head coming low upon the Mount of the Moon to a star, if accompanied by a weak heart line and corresponding stars on the Mount of Venus and Saturn indicate hereditary insanity.

A break in the line of head, nearly always indicates an injury to the head and especially so if it is under the finger of Saturn with the broken ends overlapping. If the line is much broken up it is a sign of headaches and general weaknesses, such as loss of memory and a lack of quick ideas. If it is split throughout its length with the other indications of madness or insanity, it is unfortunate, but if instead of being split it is accompanied by a second line thus making a double head line—it is a sign of good fortune and inheritances. If the head line is forked at the end with one branch descending onto the Mount of the Moon it is a sure indication of a deceitful, lying nature. A cross in the middle of the line foreshadows near approaching death and if the line is cut by a multitude of little lines, there will be many illnesses and headaches. Red points on the line indicate wounds, white ones, inventions or discoveries and black ones illnesses of some kind. A star upon this line is generally a sign of a very bad wound bringing danger or folly with it.

If a line from a spot in the head line connects with a star on the Mount of Venus, a serious disappointment in love is indicated. If a line from the head line ends in a star on the finger of Jupiter, it is a sign of extremely good luck.

Digitus

BICYCLE SURVEYS.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



A NEW way in which the bicycle may be utilized is reported to have been recently discovered. By means of a simple recording attachment to the machine, a rapid topographical survey of a piece of road may be made, and with no more exertion required on the part of the surveyer than simply wheeling over it.

The recording device consists of two parts: a cylinder revolving mechanism that carries a roll of paper, and a device that makes the record on the paper. The cylinder is a horizontal shaft, turned by a belt attached to the crank axle of the bicycle.

As the cylinder turns the strip of paper is unwound from a spool. The marking device hangs from a pivot, and adjusts itself to the position of the bicycle. As the bicycle goes down hill the marker moves further toward the edge of the paper; as it goes up hill the marker travels over the paper in the opposite direction. Along level ground the marker simply makes a straight line.

The paper used is ruled with parallel lines, and the gears of the pulley that run the paper cylinder are so arranged that the distance ridden can be computed by the amount of paper unrolled. The vertical distance of the marks is also accurately gauged. In the machine described, one foot of paper was unrolled for every seven hundred and ninety-two feet of road ridden over, while a hill one inch in height on the paper was four hundred inches in height in reality. It is said that the United States Army is experimenting with these surveying machines, which it would seem would prove reliable and trustworthy scouts, recording rapidly, accurately and in convenient form, with scarcely any trouble the exact contour of a piece of road. A general could easily decide from this data the practicability of any route for his heavy guns and supply wagons.

In a trial recently made in Pennsylvania, nearly fifty miles of road were surveyed, and a map connecting one of the militia camps with other surrounding camps was made. Besides the surveying machine the bicycle carries a cyclometer and a compass, and a sketch of the directions as well as the grades of the routes was made. The whole time for the actual surveying was only nineteen hours, which is remarkably quick time for this work.

This brings to view another use to which the machine may be put; that of making road maps for bicyclists and teamsters. Such a map would be extremely valuable, as it would give grades as well as distances.

One of the records recently made by this machine was of a piece of road in New York. The rider passed over the road at a considerable rate of speed, but the record was found to agree exactly with a previous record made by regular surveyors.

EVERYBODY WEARS COLLAR BUTTONS.

Send us only 5c. and we send you **Six** Gold Plated lever collar buttons, either for Gentlemen or Ladies. This can only be done to introduce our great catalogue of Novelties. **5 cents for 6.** Write to-day to COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

SAVE ONE-HALF YOUR FUEL We Tell You How.
Rochester Radiator Co. 30 Furnace St. Rochester, N.Y.

MEN, WOMEN BOYS, GIRLS Started in business on a new plan free; you make $10 and upward for each few hours you work; energetic persons do it odd hours or overtime, and bright boys and girls out of school hours; good pay for all time you work. Address our nearest office. The Crowell & Kirkpatrick Co., New York and Chicago.

SOMETHING NEW!!



This genuine 14k. Rolled Gold Set or Band Ring, Bracelet, Hat Pin, Chatelaine, Knife, Shirt Waist Set, Brooch, Pocket Book, etc. **FREE** to anyone who will sell 6 each of our new ROMAN GOLD CUFF BUTTONS and Stick Pins at 10c. each. They sell quickly at the price; suitable for ladies or gentlemen. If you wish to earn a premium easily sell our Dumb Bell Cuff Buttons and Pins, the LATEST OUT. NO MONEY REQUIRED IN ADVANCE. Just send your name and address saying you will sell the buttons and pins or return them and we will send them at once, postpaid, with large premium list of Watches, Chains, Opera Glasses, Clocks, etc. When sold you send us the $1.20 and we will send the premium you select.



OUR PREMIUMS ARE THE BEST. Write to-day and be the first in your town. M. R. COMPANY, 79 Dearborn St., B-10, Chicago

FREEDOM FROM DISEASE AND DESPAIR

PROF. H. C. MURPHY, originator of



"MODERN MAGNETISM"

and President of the American Institute of Science, has prepared a course whereby the ambitious can gain ***WEALTH, POWER, POSITION*** and ***HEALTH.*** Although this wonderful power has an origin that seems to come from the mysterious deep, it is easily mastered through the plainly written course by Prof. Murphy. You can ***LEARN AT HOME.*** The only education necessary, the knowledge to read. Through the knowledge you gain you are able, without the aid of drugs or the surgeon's knife, not only to **CURE YOURSELF** of disease, but those about you as well. "Book of Hope," the true key to grandest profession of the age, and the only true science whereby you can ***HEAL YOURSELF*** of all disease, ***ABSOLUTELY FREE.*** Remember, this costs you nothing, simply send your name and address, and you will receive this grand book, as well as the "Magnetic Record," a 32-page magazine, beautifully illustrated, absolutely free to all addressing **THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE, Nevada, Mo.**

Please mention COMFORT when you write.

THE HAIR TELLS ALL

If Sick send a lock of your hair, name, age, sex and 4 cts. in stamps and I will diagnose your case FREE and tell you what will cure your ailments. Address Dr. J. C. Batdorf, Dept. 15, Grand Rapids, Mich.

LADIES I Make Big Wages —AT HOME— and will gladly tell you all about my work. It's very pleasant and will easily pay $18 weekly. This is no deception. I want no money and will gladly send full particulars to all sending 2c. stamp. MRS. A. H. WIGGINS, Box 8, Benton Harbor, Mich.

WANTED MAN with horse and buggy to sell Pasture Stock Food. Salary $15 per week and 10 per cent. on all sales. Farmer preferred. Previous experience not essential. Pasture Stock Food is the greatest discovery ever made in practical and scientific feeding, and is sold on an absolute guarantee. Steady, permanent trade easily established. Sample bag sufficient for two weeks' feeding, free. Send 25 cents in stamps or silver to cover express charges. PASTURE STOCK FOOD COMPANY, 317 Times Bldg., Chicago.

R·I·P·A·N·S

A Ripans Tabule after meals,
The fate of indigestion seals;
So if you would dyspepsia shun,
When you have eaten,—swallow one!

WANTED.—A case of bad health that R·I·P·A·N·S will not benefit. They banish pain and prolong life. One gives relief. 10 for 5 cents at drug stores. Ten samples and one thousand testimonials mailed to any address for 5 cents, forwarded to the Ripans Chemical Co., No. 10 Spruce St., New York.

KICK! KICK!



GET INTO THE GAME!

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CONDUCTED BY AUNT SARAH.



"A PALE young man with feeble whiskers and a stiff white neckcloth, came walking down the lane *en sandwich*—having a lady, that is, on each arm."—*Thackeray.*

It is stated on good authority that the term "sandwich," which is generally understood to mean two slices of bread with meat between, originated about the end of the eighteenth century, from the fact that a certain Earl Sandwich was so fond of playing cards that it was exceedingly hard to get him away from the gaming table long enough to eat his meals—so the butler was sent to him with slices of bread with meat between, and in some way the name of the Earl was given to food served in just that way, and the name now is a fixture.

Of course we use a variety of mixtures for sandwiches—crackers, pastry, brown bread, and cake, but *bread*, as a rule, forms the principal part of a sandwich, and may have meat, fish, fowl, fruit, vegetables or sweet mixtures for filling—as the fancy or the occasion demands. Bread twenty-four hours old is the best to use, and if the butter is creamed, with a small wooden spoon, the thinnest slices may be spread without being broken, which is much better than to butter the end of the loaf and then cut the slice.

Sometime ago we spoke of wedding sandwiches, and illustrated them. They had no filling, simply fresh bread cut thin, buttered



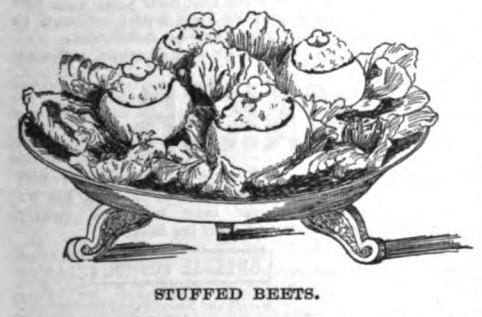
THE NEW BERRY DISH.

and rolled and tied with ribbon. In order to cut the slices of fresh bread thin enough to make a delicate sandwich, it is necessary to wrap the loaf as it is taken from the oven in a towel wrung out of cold water, and then cover with several thicknesses of dry cloth and let it stand three or four hours; then the slices can be cut quite thin and of course the crusts removed. A filling of the following recipe of chicken paste may be used, in addition to the butter if desired. One half cup each of white meat chicken and braised tongue, one half teaspoon celery salt, one teaspoon anchovy paste, four tablespoons mayonnaise dressing and a few grains cayenne. Chop the meat and pound to a paste; add seasonings and mix well. Omit anchovy paste if desired.

Some new dishes for serving berries and fruit have recently been designed, and are exceedingly dainty and comfortable to use. They are made in the shape of a leaf—grape or strawberry, usually, and have the stem extending two or three inches, to be used as a handle. Then the dish has a compartment for powdered sugar, which obviates the necessity of having sugar passed.

The beet is a universal favorite, and now when the beets are young and sweet they are particularly appetizing. They make a very attractive dish when stuffed and served cold, as shown in our illustration.

Select beets of uniform size and boil until tender. Set aside over night, covered with vinegar. When needed for serving, rub off the skin and take out the centre of each, leaving a cup. Arrange the cups on lettuce leaves, and for each five cups chop fine one cucumber, and



STUFFED BEETS.

pour over it a French dressing made of two tablespoons oil, one tablespoon vinegar, one-fourth teaspoon each of salt and paprica. Fill the cups with this mixture, and from the beet removed from centres of cups, cut fancy shaped pieces for decorating the top of each. Chopped celery or olives make a good filling, dressed in the same way, or a combination of celery and chopped radish.

HALIBUT SALAD.

Flake fish which has previously been boiled, and pour over it French dressing. Add half as much cold boiled potato cut in cubes, which has also been dressed with French dressing. Serve on lettuce. Cold cooked peas or string beans may be used in place of the potatoes, if desired.

SHRIMP SALAD.

Clean shrimps and cover with French dressing, and drain. Pare cucumbers and cut in halves lengthwise; remove seeds and steam until tender—chill and arrange on lettuce leaves or bed of watercress. Mix mayonnaise with the shrimp and place in the cucumbers, decorating with the mayonnaise put on with a pastry bag.

We have been requested to give a recipe for making pretzels, but have been unable to get the recipe, which we regret. If we are able to get one later, we will at once publish it in this column.

ALBERT MEMORIAL.



ONE of the richest monuments in the world is that in London which Queen Victoria erected to the memory of her husband.

Broad granite steps lead up on four sides to a platform. In the centre is a statue of gilded bronze fifteen feet in height portraying Prince Albert. On each of the four corners are four groups of statuary representing the four great divisions of the world, Europe, Asia, Africa and America, and from this also rises the tower in which is cut statues representing the greatest men of all ages.

Prince Albert was a devoted patron of art and science and the promoter of our first great world's exposition.

CURIOUS DWELLINGS.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



IN the eastern shores of the Carpian Sea the Turcomans live. When this roving tribe of thieves sets out on a journey each man sets his wooden house on a camel's back and when they arrive at a place suitable for a settlement the house is removed from the camel and in a few hours the little village is complete.

This portable home is not a tent, but is made of light wood laths an inch broad and three-quarters of an inch thick crossing each other when set up in position at right angle, and fastened at the crossings by rawhide. So the whole framework can be open or shut.

This house frame is circular and measures about fifteen or twenty feet across. Over this is thrown a black felt covering with a hole at the top which answers as a chimney and a window. Around this is bound another frame of split reeds which are tied with strong cords making the whole structure secure. Sometimes these houses have two apartments divided by a screen, in which is barely more than a carpet for furnishings.

The Guiana Indian's house is a shed like arrangement and is nothing more than a roof in the warmest climates while in the cooler districts it is walled in accordingly. From the posts and rafters are hung the clubs, pans, paddles, guns, bows, etc., and between the upright posts in tiers one above the other are hammocks. This is called a warm house. And it is almost incredible how many will swing under a single roof. To the master of this place his hammock is his home.

In southern Africa, the *women* of the Makalolo tribe are the house builders. They begin by planting a circle of stakes this is wound with reeds and plastered with mud. So that it makes a wall nine or ten feet high. Then a large conical roof is made to set on top of this wall and this tower when completed is listed from the ground by a number of the natives together and set upon the wall. The projecting edges are supported by posts driven into the ground. This hatlike top is not fixed permanently to the wall and is removed when the weather is pleasant, or when they have visitors to accommodate this is placed where it makes a separate apartment for the company.

Probably the strangest house of all is that made in the skeleton of a whale. In Australia there are tribes who have been known to eat a whale's flesh and then reside in its remains which they cover with leaves and grass and matting to keep out winds and rain. Thus we see the habits of some of our own race are akin to animals and even insects.

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TALKS WITH GIRLS.

CONDUCTED BY COUSIN MARION.

"The melancholy days have come the saddest of the year," or so the poet tells us, but there is no reason why we should be any sadder in September than we are in May, unless it is that we all have large families to keep warm, and coal is high. Let us be happy every month in the year, or try to, and the good Lord will surely reward us for making the world better. Now let us to our letters.

The first is from Cousin Huckleberry of Forest, Idaho, who wants to know what words to use in snubbing a young man. There are no set forms of words for this disagreeable duty. Circumstances and provocation must guide.

Tosy, Chicago, Ills.—See answer above to your first two questions. (3) Goodness knows what can be done with a sister who is disagreeable to her sisters' gentlemen callers. I know several of that kind. They are incurable—unless you marry them out the house.

Penn Rose, Towner, Pa.—Don't elope. Wait awhile and try to win your parents over. If they refuse finally, marry the man you love, if he is worthy. (2) Treat the young man that makes fun of you with silent contempt. (3) Home work at good wages is hard to find, and you can't get it from the firms you ask about.

Meta, Sidney, Iowa.—It is quite proper for a lady to send a valentine to a gentleman. (2 and 3) Ask your mother.

Primrose, Owensboro, Ky.—Drop the young man who prefers base ball on Sunday to his best girl. (2) Yes, three sisters may keep company in the same room, if the company is formal. (3) Certainly, old maids may go to parties. (4) By no means wear glasses simply for style. You'll ruin your eyes. (5) Do as you please about giving birthday presents. (6) The lady furnishes her own stamps, of course.

Rhoda, Effington, S. D.—The man who asks you to go to a dance and does not come after you and makes no explanation is not a gentleman, and you should drop him. He will probably lie to you if you call for an apology.

Millie, Beaver Harbor, Canada.—This is the nineteenth century simply because the twentieth century is not here yet, and won't be till 1901. Time began in the year 1, and each century begins the same.

Mayflower, Rockland, Mich.—Exercise, sunshine, good food and sleep. (2) It would be better not to go to dances yet. (3) Wear your hair down. (4) Don't have a beau.

Bessie, Pensacola, Fla.—The right kind of an engaged girl will not leave her affianced to go walking with another man, unless there is a perfect understanding why she does.

Pansy, Oak Ridge, La.—It is quite correct to divide dances when men are plenty. (2) Yes, a girl may visit her affianced's mother even if there are no girls in the house. (3) Better not accept two rings from the man of forty.

True-heart, Doylestown, Pa.—Stop writing to the young man you never met. If he is what you think he is he will call on you properly. You are foolish to think of loving a man you never saw. Possibly he is as black as the ace of spades.

Harryette, Ravenna, O.—Rings are often exchanged between those not engaged, but the practice is not a good one. (2) The man should not object to your accepting an escort when he is absent. (3) He should be there at the appointed hour, but you might wait a few minutes.

Rasters, Cleburne, Texas.—Yes, to all four of your questions.

Flirt, Dallas, Texas.—Will answer your questions five years from now.

Lena Houghton, La.—Girls of sixteen and under should not correspond with men.

Benderline, Pine Bluff, Ark.—Girls in school should not have beaus. (2) It is not correct for a "visitor to rest her hat."

White Rose, Reuben, Ala.—It is proper to shake hands when introduced. (2) A good way to bring the young man to a sense of his situation is to accept the attentions of some other young man. If he wants you he will let you know. (3) Write to any of the music firms advertising in COMFORT.

Effie, Bridgeton, N. Y.—Let the young man go out of your life. He evidently loves the other girl.

Pest, Lewistown, Mon.—The lady may suggest returning from the drive. (2) The boys are silly to "get mad" over the trick you played on them, and the best thing for them is to let them sulk and suck their thumbs. They'll be men after awhile.

Helene, San Francisco, Cal.—There is no free grammar class that I know of. (2) Write to M. D. Hurt, 1510 H street, N. W., Washington, D. C., about the other matter.

Flower Girl, Sable River, N. S.—The young man should not carry his hands in his pockets while walking with you. (2) In writing to a near friend address him informally, calling him by his first name if you know him well enough.

Sweet Pea, Elmdale, Kans.—Write to F. H. Snow, Ph.D., LL.D., Lawrence, Kans.

C. H. L., Brooklyn, Iowa.—The man with the lady takes off his hat when she speaks to any one whether he knows the person or not. (2) Yes.

B. F., Bellville, Texas.—There is no guaranteed cure for a bunion. Bunion shields, to be had at any druggist's, are good, but better is a shoe that will fit the foot right. There are such shoes made. Ask your shoe man.

H. E. H. L., Bristol, Me.—One young man may escort two or more ladies home from church or anywhere else. If the sidewalk is too narrow they must divide up to suit themselves. (2) Ask some of your friends to accompany you if the young man insists on walking with you. A policeman ought to be called for a young ruffian of that sort.

Ola, Vansycle, Ore.—Since you ask me many questions and agree to take my advice, I will answer them all by saying that you are too young to bother about such things as beaus and ought to study your books and all the ways to be good and useful when you are a woman.

Bud and Blossom, Sabula, Iowa.—Almost any kind of a game at parties is all right except a kissing game. They are common and vulgar.

Margaret, Post, Ore.—Nearly sixteen years old and don't know how to spell your name yet, and still you want to know about beaus. My, my, don't you think you had better study up on some other subject?

Pet, Nottoway, Va.—All your questions are answered in this column.

Violet, Augusta, Mo.—If the young man doesn't know enough to go home at the proper hour the girl ought to know enough to tell him to go.

Mary, Dwight, Mass.—Clean white silk ribbon with naphtha or gasoline, applying it with a cloth. If you put the material in the gasoline, press it out afterwards between cloths.

Tulip, La Grange, Ark.—Better see the doctor about the warts. The best thing for tan is lanoline, from any drug store, and lemon juice, say a teaspoonful of each, or half if you don't want so much. Apply before going to bed.

Lillian Evelyn, Johnson, Vt.—Lemon juice applied at night will remove freckles. (2) You are not old enough to wear your hair up, or to go wheeling with young men.

There, dears, all your questions are answered, and you have my best wishes until we meet again in October, and then too.

COUSIN MARION.

SOME FAMOUS HORSES.



ON the banks of the Boyne near the battlefield lies buried William III's favorite horse which was shot under him. After the battle William ordered a monument erected and his horse buried beneath it, with all the pomp of military ceremony.

"Copenhagen" the famous charger that carried the Duke of Wellington victorious at Waterloo died of old age in 1836 and was buried with honors. Over the horse's grave was erected an edifice worth about 2,000 pounds.

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Spanking is the method used to discipline prisoners of some of our reformatories.

In the Bible the 19th Chapter of II. King and the 37th Chapter of Isaiah are alike.

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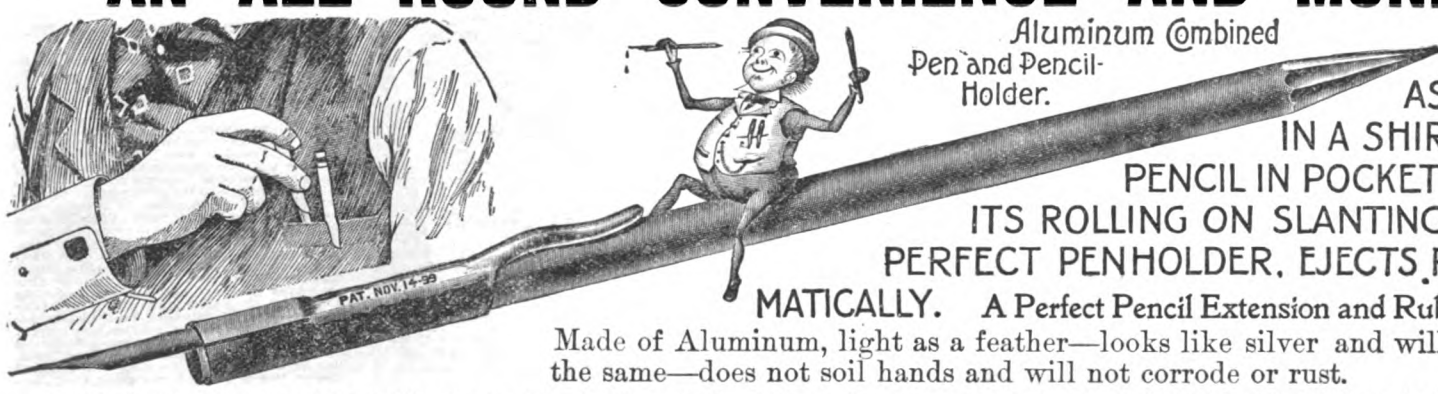
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CONDUCTED BY REGULUS.



THE new moon occurs on the 23rd of September, this year, about seven and a half hours after the sun has crossed the line, at the Autumnal Equinox. A figure of the heavens erected for that time at Washington, our seat of government, shows the 25th degree of the sign Capricorn rising and the 18th degree of Scorpio on the mid-heaven. The Sun and Moon come together in the 8th house or house of death, just past the evil rays of Saturn in the house of secret enemies, prisons, or places of confinement but in good aspect of Mars and Jupiter. Mars is just setting in the west and Jupiter is in his highest dignity in the 10th house with the Moon's ascending node. Saturn on the 12th cusp, he being ruler of the ascendant and significator of the people, indicates some species of harm to our people and officials in confinement, entailing some activity of naval forces and the military for protection of our citizens or to enforce demands of the government for indemnity for harm done to our people. Aside from these features of strife or contention the indications of the figure are remarkably good and mark the continuous onward march of our Nation among the great powers of the world.

The great financial questions of the country engage public attention and are treated with marked predominance of sentiment, doing honor to us as a people and promising to establish our Nation among the foremost of the world for integrity and credit and the justness of our dealings.

CELESTIAL CALENDAR FOR OCTOBER, 1900.

OCTOBER 1—Monday. Do not ask favors of public officers or persons in authority, nor expect much advantage from thy pursuit of any of the fine arts; otherwise the day is a good one for all general business or major commercial engagements.

2—Tuesday. Continue thine efforts of a business nature, but do not depend upon the day for mental labors of consequence or any of the literary engagements; have nothing to do with patents, copyrights, or trademarks.

3—Wednesday. Keep a check upon the temper and a too hasty tongue during the first two-thirds of this day, and with caution against impulsiveness and haste give every steady energy to the major undertakings in life; purchase goods for trade in the afternoon, when also seek money accommodations and deal with judicial officers, railway officials, government authorities and employees and all classes of organizations and corporate bodies.

4—Thursday. Make no contract concerning printing nor with persons engaged in buying or selling real estate or in building or excavating; give preference to the middle hours for the polite arts and social or musical engagements.

5—Friday. Begin this day with the dawn urging all pursuits concerning books or writings and dealing with all in the literary callings; let literary productions be launched, do important correspondence, travel and make contracts; the afternoon is less to be depended upon and caution should be had that money losses or needless expenditures do not come; do not seek aid of a financial character in the afternoon or evening, especially from public institutions or government authorities.

6—Saturday. Let commercial undertakings be diligently pushed on this day when also employ the mind in its most important connections; the time favors for dealing in silks, fancy goods, and all articles of adornment, dress, or decoration, for workers in wax, embroiderers, milliners, and dressmakers; deal in musical and dramatical goods and crowd all the major undertakings in life.

7—Sunday. The mind will be inclined toward the elegant in literature and the imagination will be unusually active; the day is peculiarly propitious for religious exercises; it is one of the best Sabbath days of the month.

8—Monday. Give attention after the morning hours to the pursuit of all the fine arts; the improvement of real estate, architecture, house furnishings, landscape painting and decoration of interiors; conditions favor such labors and engagements until noon of the 9th instant, with continually increasing energies.

9—Tuesday. Continue thine efforts urged for yesterday, during the forenoon; but look out for turmoil and controversies as the afternoon advances, when do not travel unnecessarily nor enter into any kind of contract; be watchful against thieves in the evening; keep the temper and postpone correspondence or mental efforts of magnitude; see that fires do not waste in business sections and be not involved in disputes.

10—Wednesday. The conditions on this day are not specially promotive of success in any of the great undertakings, though fair for routine labors.

11—Thursday. Trade sparingly and cautiously in fancy and ornamental goods; providing for absolute requirements only rather than purchasing in quantity; seek no audience with the ladies and beware of any matrimonial engagement at this time; the time is poor for the beginning of any dramatic engagements and music and the fine arts are somewhat "under the ban" for a few days, notably this afternoon and evening.

12—Friday. Begin early on this day and urge all mechanical pursuits; experiment in chemistry; deal with military men, druggists, bakers, tailors, barbers, carpenters, machinists and engineers, and seek advancements of or favor from military and police authorities, municipal governments and railway projectors.

13—Saturday. But little success need be expected in the enterprises begun during this forenoon, but as the noon is passed let every energy be given to the prosecution of business, notwithstanding the hours are the closing ones of the week. Persons born about the 29th of January, 30th of March, 4th of October or 2nd of December of past years, are peculiarly favored just at this time and if engaged in any of the manufacturing enterprises of life they experience benefits or developments of an unusually favorable character and should make beginnings of consequence in the directions indicated.

14—Sunday. The conditions promote happy efforts of the clergy, give flowery eloquence and unusual volubility of tongue; literary engagements and mental efforts are favored.

15—Monday. Make no application for favor or advantage from public officials or thy superior in business; have no dealings in fancy goods, apparel, or decorative wares and hold on to the purse-strings, but after midday bend every energy to the pursuit of business; urge correspondence, travel and plan thy financial undertakings.

16—Tuesday. Do not relax thine efforts of yesterday but be up and doing in every available moment of the day; open new stores, buy goods for trade, seek money accommodations from banks and persons of wealth; consult judges and officers of state and other public institutions, but put on the cautious cap in the evening, keeping out of all kinds of disputes and controversies; be watchful against fires and the evil inclinations of mankind as the night advances.

17—Wednesday. A fair day for most of the undertakings of life, though an exception is to be noted for the elegant and artistic pursuits which just now meet embarrassing experiences; let the fair sex avoid any matrimonial engagement at this time, especially if born about the 28th day of February, or the 1st of June, September, or December of past years; as they are likely to repent of such actions or suffer much unhappiness through the relations now assumed. Strange alliances are now made inviting censure or public comment and many persons engaged in the elegant pursuits meet embarrassment and hinderances of mischievous character.

18—Thursday. Bargain for houses and lands and push all business connected with building and repairing; deal with farmers, plumbers, shipwrights, mining officers, boot and shoe dealers and all the laboring classes.

19—Friday. This day is excellent for all general business though the literary pursuits are more favored in the latter hours; do important correspondence, execute deeds and writings, hire help, travel and seek dramatic and musical pleasures in the evening.

20—Saturday. An indifferent day generally until the late afternoon when strange and baffling disappointments are likely; seek not the society of the aged in the evening.

21—Sunday. An especially fortunate Sabbath day, inducing mental activity and promoting pulpit eloquence and the enjoyment of literary productions.

22—Monday. A good time for the beginning of undertakings concerned with machinery; deal with cutlers, surgeons, chemists, bakers, barbers, tailors, tanners, carpenters and military men; consult thy dentist and experiment in chemistry.

23—Tuesday. An excellent day. Give preference to the forenoon hours for engagements looking to the purchase, sale, or improvement of real estate; deal with miners, farmers, boot and shoe manufacturers, and persons concerned with the estates of deceased persons.

24—Wednesday. Give preference to the forenoon for the most important engagements pertaining to houses and lands. The afternoon is not so promising; it is also promotive of contention; be not over-sensitive to reproach or rash in word or act; avoid all litigation, and contain thyself in patience.

25—Thursday. Begin early and urge all manner of business to the utmost. This is the merchant's own day and especially fortunate for any honorable pursuit; buy goods for trade, especially by legitimate methods in business; travel, sign writings; urge literary and scientific pursuits and apply for favors for money accommodations. Artists, musicians, and all in the elegant occupations and polite arts are particularly favored and should take this time to begin their works of consequence.

26—Friday. Another of the best days of the month for beginning affairs of magnitude and importance. REGULUS advises his friends to take advantage of the bright and cheering conditions of this and the preceding day, to enter with zeal upon their several pursuits in life. If this be the anniversary of thy birthday then these suggestions apply with even greater force and thou mayst reckon with full assurance upon many very prosperous weeks to come; buy goods for trade, engage in new enterprises, speculate if thy nativity be fairly favorable; deal with public officials, judges, councillors, ecclesiastics and traders in wool and woolens. The time is particularly favorable for persons born about the 30th of January, 31st of March, 3rd of August, or 3rd of October, and such persons have in these passing weeks marked increase of friends, improved health or unexpected and more favorable business advantages and benefits.

27—Saturday. Improve the forenoon for the mechanical pursuits and the transactions of business with dealers in hardware, cutlery, metals, glasswares, brass and iron work and chemical and electrical apparatus, and experiment in chemistry or with machinery; the afternoon is less favorable.

28—Sunday. Not particularly promising for a Sabbath day, inviting rest and quiet rather than physical exertion or mental effort.

29—Monday. A day not especially conducive to progress in any direction, though it is by no means unfavorable for the routine transactions of life.

30—Tuesday. Give preference to the afternoon for the principal undertakings of life; the literary pursuits are especially favored and commercial contracts and engagements concerned with the production of books, magazines, and public writings should be here made.

31—Wednesday. This day should be fully employed for dealings with dentists, chemists, surgeons, soldiers, builders, mechanics generally, and all workers in brass, iron and glass; do not use the time for soliciting any favor from thine employer or persons in authority.

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I will send free, with full instructions, some of this simple preparation for the cure of Leucorrhœa, Ulceration, Displacement and all female diseases, to all ladies sending address. I have nothing to sell. Tell other sufferers of it—that is all I ask.
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How To Cure
RUPTURE

DEAR READER:—It gives me much pleasure and satisfaction to write this little story, for it contains a new and wonderful method of curing rupture or hernia, and places before the afflicted words of hope and tidings of great joy.

It is not my intention to use medical words or terms for the purpose of confusing those who are not familiar with them. I am sure this would not be more valuable for using those technical terms which some use, for the sole purpose of making some ignorant one believe they possess extraordinary knowledge

I am not going to describe the many ways one may become ruptured. In the many years I have treated ruptures I have been told of more than a thousand different things that caused my patients' affliction. That you are ruptured, and that I can cure you, is the purpose for which this is written, and it will surely be a blessing, coming unawares to those who follow its teachings.

There are several kinds of rupture and they are named according to their location, the most common being Scrotal, Umbilical (navel) and Femoral. They are again divided into two classes as reducible or irreducible. The reducible is one that can be returned to its proper place within the abdomen. The irreducible is one that cannot be returned. The last named is caused by going without a truss, but mostly by using some poor and ill-constructed one.


RUPTURED.

There are many people who are ruptured and don't know it. They will have at times a slight pain in the lower part of the abdomen. If they do much lifting or straining work it grows worse and will at times get so bad they think they have an attack of colic. They will take some medicine for colic, lie down, and in many cases the pain will disappear, because whatever was out returns to its natural position. But in other cases the surgeon has to be called because the rupture has become strangulated. In some cases he succeeds in reducing it, in others a surgical operation is necessary, and with others after hours of agony death only gives relief.

The best time to attend to a rupture is when it is small, perhaps in some cases no larger than an acorn. Many who have small ruptures say, "It is only a small one, does not give me any trouble, no need to bother about that."

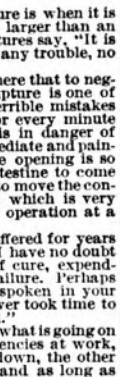
SMALL RUPTURE DANGEROUS Let me say right here that to neglect the small rupture is one of the most terrible mistakes possible, for every minute life is in danger of immediate and painful death by strangulation, for the opening is so small that it only allows one intestine to come down. It then requires great force or pressure to move the contents and in many cases it becomes constricted which is very apt to prove fatal or require a painful surgical operation at a great cost of time and money.

HAVE YOU Perhaps you have suffered for years with rupture. If so, I have no doubt but you have tried many trusses and methods of cure, expended many dollars and always the same result—failure. Perhaps you have been told by some one or it has been spoken in your presence and you believed it because you never took time to think about it, that "rupture could not be cured."

IT CAN BE CURED Just think a minute of what is going on in your body. Two agencies at work, one constantly tearing you down, the other building you up or repairing, and as long as your vitality is good the repairing force keeps you in perfect health. Suppose you broke your arm, never had it set, or the proper appliance used to make it reunite and heal, the result would be that you would always have a broken arm. But you do have the proper attendance and care, and your arm in a short time is well again. So your rupture will heal if given the same chance—viz.: retain everything in a natural position the same as if there was no rupture and nature will do the rest. But the facts are:—you became ruptured, experienced very little or no pain, and you put off from day to day using the correct appliance needed to assist nature in its work. You needed a truss that would hold under every condition the strain from the injured part until it was healed, and strong enough to perform its work again. You need an appliance that HOLDS AND HEALS WHILE YOU WORK.

HOW COULD THIS HEAL The trusses that have been placed on afflicted ones in the past were constructed on the wrong principle and are now things of the past. In their day some were considered good and in some cases gave partial relief. They would hold one day and perhaps the next day would let the hernia out many times. In fact never two days alike because they were not self-adjusting. Some thought when the elasitc was introduced, "here is a perfect truss at last," but they soon found out their mistake. They place all dependence on elastic webbing or belts which go around the body and they must be pulled or buckled tight enough so they are a torture, to bring the pads in position to bear on the rupture. Everyone knows that the sweat of the body will soon rot the elastic in the webbing, and as they must be continually stretching and giving out; never two days alike; consequently the intestines are being let out of their natural position, and never give the rupture a chance to heal. How can that kind of a truss cure a rupture? A rupture to be cured must be held securely in its natural position. It is probably a waste of time to tell you about old style trusses. You know it all. You know how you have suffered in warm weather from sweating and chafing. The belts and straps pulled up so tight over the galled parts that you would think, "I would rather die than suffer this any longer," and many, after repeated trials, unable to bear the torture any longer, are risking their lives and living in misery without a truss.

HOW TO CURE To effect a cure of hernia, all know that the hernial tumor or intestines must be held in an easy, comfortable and natural position, in fact to be in the same natural position that they would be in if there was no rupture. It has been my great fortune to have placed in my possession a new idea in the shape of what I may call a truss. Do not think it is one of those instruments of torture you have seen that has ropes, pulleys, elastics, etc. To compare mine with others would be like comparing the electric light with an old fashioned lamp. My appliance or truss stands out alone as a new idea, something far ahead of anything ever before placed upon a human being. A wonderful invention, holds with comfort everything in its proper, natural position, giving nature the chance to heal she has been waiting for. IT IS AS EASY TO WEAR AS A STOCKING, safe, simple, cleanly and durable.


CURED.

WILL LAST 100 YEARS IF NEEDED Cool and comfortable in warm weather, has no parts to chafe, does not absorb the foul odors of the body, always in place, always comfortable, always healing. It has no elastic webbing, no straps between the legs and no spring around the body. No matter what your position is, it never need changing.

YOU WORK WHILE IT HEALS No loss of time. Our appliance stands out alone, a new idea, PATENTED BY THE U.S. GOVERNMENT, and has been proven to be far in advance of any other appliance for the cure of rupture.

DOES IT DO THIS Does your truss hold you at all times? Is it comfortable, giving you a feeling of safety that you are all right? Is your rupture week by week growing smaller? If not, throw away that truss. Don't lose your health, perhaps your life, with such a contrivance. It is wrong in principle, wrong in construction, and may do a positive injury. In many cases the trusses are made and sold by persons who never saw a rupture. Belts, elastics, springs, and in fact everything that could be made, that some kind of a pad was fastened to, was put on to sufferers as a truss.

WHAT YOU WANT Is an appliance that holds everything in its natural position, SAFE, SURE, CLEANLY, HEALING, COMFORTABLE. So easy that you do not realize you are ruptured. You ask, "Is there such an appliance?" The answer is, "Yes! for I HAVE THAT APPLIANCE!" The inventor of this wonderful truss, the Rev. Jeremiah Hayden, who was chaplain of the 17th Maine Regiment, says:

THE PASTOR'S STORY "Finding myself ruptured, I sought advice of an elder brother who had the same trouble. He said, 'I have been ruptured for forty years, and have spent over $300 for trusses, and the one I have on now is the best one I ever had. It cost me $15 (it was an elastic truss) but it is breaking and I must get another.' On examination I found an elastic strap around him with every stitch of the webbing printed on his body, while the understrap that passed between his legs had chafed him so that he was red and sore. This led me to discover my truss, which is as EASY TO WEAR AS A STOCKING, and which ended all pain, danger and cost, and never needs repairing. I want to get it into the hands of my fellow-men who are suffering from this dangerous and painful infirmity, for I know it will be worth a hundred times its cost. I am broken down with kidney and heart disease, and I am in constant expectation of death. (82 years old.) The thought has been constantly before me: an invention which has the power to relieve so much suffering should not be buried with me. As I am not able, I want you to take measures to introduce it to the world, and if this is accomplished, I shall feel that my life has been of value to sufferers. As I have reflected upon the miseries of millions without means of relief, and the dismal certainty of their growing worse, and considered that I have in my keeping a comfortable, sure fitting, never failing remedy, amply proven and tested in my own and other cases, and which, at a glance, common sense will appreciate, I feel that it would be a giant wrong to mankind to have this invention buried with me, for AS I VALUE MY HONOR IN THIS WORLD AND MY SOUL IN THE NEXT, I unhesitatingly declare that a failure in any instance is impossible." A truly most wonderful invention; a blessing to mankind. An article that will cure, because it will hold everything just right, in its natural position, which gives the rupture a chance to re-unite and heal.

CAN YOU DOUBT What more need be said than the minister's statement printed above? Does any one believe for a moment that Mr. Hayden would make a statement he did not believe true? Will you be benefited by my method? It costs so little and success is certain. Why will you drag out a miserable existence when the means of relief are at your command?

TERMS: NO CURE, NO PAY It is the perfect confidence I have in my method of cure that warrants me in adopting the above terms. Surely I have great faith in my way of treating rupture or I would never make the following proposition to you. It is a fair, honest offer that no other firm dare make, because they have not the goods to back it up. You will carefully fill up the Measure Blank with the answers to the questions asked thereon. We also ask you to sign our Special Order Blank. You will please send us those two blanks and the small sum stated on the Special Order Blank with your order. The reason I ask you to send this guarantee with the order is, there are so many people who are always writing for anything they can get for nothing. Many would write who are not ruptured. They know some one who is, and they want to get for nothing something they can sell the afflicted party for $10 or $15. There are others who have no gratitude in them; their object seems to be to get all they can for nothing and in no way ever think of repaying a favor or paying what rightfully belongs for them to pay. THIS I KNOW FROM ACTUAL EXPERIENCE. To keep such parties from troubling me, I have decided on the following plan: You are to send the two blanks before mentioned and the small amount stated thereon, the same to be held by us as a small guarantee of good faith. Upon receipt of same we at once send you by mail, all charges paid and safe delivery guaranteed, a truss, the same to be used by you. When cured you are to promptly send us $4.00 more and return our truss, which we only lend you. Many who get cured say they want to keep the truss. To all I will say that I will sell it at a fair price and charge according to the work done, and it will not be over $10. The terms I have offered are fair and liberal, no fair-minded person can say they are not, and I will not under any circumstances deviate from them.

Will you, after these plain and truthful statements, continue to suffer and risk your life by wearing an old style, imperfect truss? Dare you go without one knowing you are daily growing worse, and that within a short time you will become a total wreck? Dare you lay this aside before you give it a trial, which costs you nothing if you are not satisfied? Do you think it is a humbug? If we were frauds we would not ask such a small sum with the order; we would ask $5.00 or $10.00. A fraud never expects a second order, so they get all the first.

We can fit an infant, or a man or woman weighing 300 lbs. Fleshy ladies having navel ruptures will find it a great blessing. No hot bands around you. It is the only truss that can be worn by women and be clean and comfortable. Ruptured women who are pregnant can wear it and avoid many hours and days of misery. Don't put off ordering it. Do it today; tomorrow may be too late. What more need be said to convince you? We warrant A PERFECT FIT IN EVERY CASE.

SEE THE TESTIMONIALS Be sure to fill out the two blanks. The truss fits all kinds of ruptures. In closing will say I have cured many who have had bad ruptures and can cure you if you will only let me. I can be the means of doing you much good, and hope to hear from you in the near future. If you wish the names of people in your own state who endorse our method, send postage and we will send you their names.

MY GUARANTEE The perfect confidence I have in my truss, and the knowledge I have from actual experience of its curing properties enables me to guarantee every truss. Your rupture may be small, or it may be one that only at times gives you little pain or trouble. Did you ever know a rupture that did not from month to month grow worse? Let me say right here that there is nothing so dangerous as a rupture. Nothing keeps a man or woman so near death, nothing causes so much trouble or the cause of so many surgical operations. The ways of Providence are wonderful. This advertisement may be one of its methods of warning, coming to you unawares, which if neglected means your death. Don't be deceived or have your mind changed by some one who has trusses for sale or who gets a commission by getting a truss for you. They will lose the money, so they will say, "Don't send for the Surehold Truss; it is so cheap it can't be good," and then they will offer to sell you something costing $5.00 and upwards, and say, "This is good because we ask a big price for it." The fact is they make so few sales that when they do find a customer they charge enough to keep themselves going until they get another victim to fleece. Just say to such people that the Surehold Truss is not sold, it is only loaned, and just as soon as you are cured I get the truss back and $4.00 more. I have thousands of patients, so it pays me. Ask others to let you have their goods on the same terms as I do, and I will warrant you will get some flimsy excuse.

A MAN CURED WHILE HE WORKED. DEAR SIR: I cannot find words to express my thanks. I tried many kinds and never one that would hold me. The Surehold holds me in all places and at all kinds of work, and I have never lost a day's time. I am cured entirely and have not had to wear a truss for many weeks. I have worked hard shoveling and wheeling coal; traveling up and down stairs at my work as watchman. Some nights I have put in more than a ton of coal. G. S. HOSLEY, Norwood, Mass. Granite St.

A WOMAN CURED AFTER 18 YEARS OF SUFFERING, AGE 61. DEAR SIR: I cannot say enough in favor of your truss. Please accept my most sincere thanks for the benefit I have received. I have not worn a truss for three months now. I had previously worn a truss day and night for over 18 years. I have worked hard all the fall drying fruit and doing the duties of the household. I heartily wish that every man, woman or child who has suffered as I did would be convinced that your truss will cure rupture. I wish you long life and prosperity and an eternal life in the future. Yours truly, MARTHA DAVIS, Diamond, Ark.

A BOY CURED MY BOY. SIR: Your truss has cured my boy when no other would, in the time you said it would. I am more than thankful to you. Every word you said was true. No need of any child suffering when they can be cured so easily.
MRS. MARY YARNELL, Middleton, Ohio.

☞ The above are only samples. We could print more testimonials than this paper could hold.

POSTMASTER I have examined the letters from which these testimonials were taken and guarantee the same to be genuine. I was also shown a great many other testimonials which speak in the highest terms of the Surehold Truss. CHAS. B. WOODMAN.

MAYOR WESTBROOK, ME. This is to certify that I am personally acquainted with Mr. Alexander Speirs, and consider him responsible for any contracts he may make, and strictly reliable. KING S. RAYMOND, (Mayor).

REFERENCE Any Bank, Mercantile Agency, Postmaster, Express Co., City Official, and the Publishers of this paper.

Men and women use the same measure blank.

SPECIAL ORDER BLANK.

ALEXANDER SPEIRS—DEAR SIR:—FIND ENCLOSED MY MEASURES, ALSO $1.40 AS A GUARANTEE, FOR ONE SINGLE SUREHOLD TRUSS (SEND $2.50 FOR DOUBLE TRUSS) TO BE SENT BY MAIL, ALL CHARGES PREPAID. WHEN CURED OF MY RUPTURE I PROMISE TO PAY $4.00 MORE AND RETURN THE TRUSS YOU SEND ME.

NAME .....

STREET, OR P. O. BOX IF YOU HAVE ONE .....

POST OFFICE .....

COUNTY ..... STATE .....



MEASURE BLANK.

1. How many inches do you measure around the body on a line with the rupture?
2. Are you ruptured on right side, left side, both sides, or navel?
3. About how large is the rupture?
4. How near the scrotum is it?
5. Does it descend into the scrotum?
6. Can you reduce or return it easily?
7. What is your height?
8. What is your weight?
9. What is your occupation?
10. How long have you been ruptured?
11. Mark as near as possible on picture where your rupture is.

State you saw this ad. in COMFORT.

ALEX. SPEIRS, Westbrook, Maine.

COMFORT'S PARTIAL PREMIUM LIST, FOR 1900-1901.

Don't destroy this issue of "Comfort!" If you are not able to get up a club for "COMFORT" now or have not the money at present to renew or subscribe, preserve this number and remember to order from it later in the fall or even next year, as we will supply you with any of the premiums presented here at any time during the next twelve months unless they are entirely sold; we will refund the money in that case. If you can not send in a full list of subscribers to secure a large premium all at once send what you can and we credit you the amount sent and send Premium. Remember "COMFORT" is a 50c. paper, but we will until further notice take subscriptions at the special price of 25c. per year. We offer these great inducements to you to get up these clubs of trial subscribers, and to make the work easier offer not only valuable premiums but place special prices on trial subscriptions of 3, 6 or 12 months, which count just as many in making the clubs as if the full regular subscription price was paid; so that you have every advantage in getting up such clubs. The cost of a year's subscription to this wonderful paper is so trifling, and there is more reading matter in it than in any other monthly paper in the world. Look over the list and try for a prize. The holidays will soon be here. Address all orders for Premiums

COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

The Victoria Stamping Outfit.

More Artistic Patterns for the Money than were ever Dreamed of.



It has been our special pleasure to select designs for this collection for our artistic friends. Illustration A shows a floral and ribbon design which can be used for almost anything the dainty worker has use for. The flowers are best executed in Kensington stitch, the ribbon may be either simple outline, outline filled in with feather, herring-bone or cat stitch, or, what is still more effective, the long and short stitch. Illustration B is a dainty little design for monograms or what-nots.

Note the sizes of the designs named below and the number of sheets of patterns in this outfit.

1 Very Handsome Centerpiece of Carnations, 17x17 inches.
1 Pretty Corner-piece of Pansies and Leaves, 6x6 inches.
1 Design of Strawberries and Leaves for Doily, 5½x6½.
1 Design Orchid and Leaves for Scarf Corner, 6½x10.
1 Clover Design for Doily.
1 Design for Baby's Bib, Rosebuds and word Baby, 4x4.
1 Design for Cheese Doily, 3½x6.
1 Design for Souvenir Case with Motto, 5½x6.
1 Design for Shoe Bag, 5x10.
1 Design for Shaving Bag with Motto, 6x6.
4 Fruit Designs for Fruit Plate Doilies, 3½x3½.
1 Design for Carving Cloth, 11½x15½.
1 Design for Tumbler Doily, 4x4.
1 Pretty Corner Design for Tea-cloth, Jewel Work, 9x9.
1 Design for Table Doily, 8x8.
1 Design for Water Bottle Doily, 6x6.
4 Designs for Butter Plate Doilies, 3½x3½.
1 Cut Work Doily Design, 5x5.
1 Very Pretty Design for Corner, Battenberg Work, 7x7.
1 Design for Border with Corner, 5x16.
1 Floral Corner Geranium, 6½x6½.
1 Design Water Lily for Doily.
1 Floral Wreath for Monogram or Handkerchief Case, 5x5.
1 Design for Tray Cloth, 7x15.
1 Design for Centerpiece, Maidenhair Ferns, 9½x9½.
1 Rosebud Doily, 7½x7½.
1 Alphabet for Towels or Table Linen, 1½ inches high.
1 Design Centerpiece, Pansies, 10x10.
1 Pansy Doily, 6½x6½.
1 Alphabet for Handkerchiefs or Fine Linen, 1 inch high.
1 Border for Flannel Work, 3½ inches wide, and 29 other designs for embroidery of every description too numerous to mention here.



The patterns are made of linen bond paper, and consist of 9 sheets of patterns, each sheet 14x22 inches in size. As good as can be made.

With each outfit we send full instructions for doing the stamping, and one piece of EUREKA COMPOUND, enabling anyone to do permanent stamping, instantly, without heat or trouble. Your money back if you want it, but no one ever does.

AN OFFER TO EVERY LADY. If you will send us only 25 cents we will send you one Outfit, all charges paid and make you a trial subscription to the largest, brightest and best illustrated monthly paper for 3 months, postpaid. Address COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

ELECTRICITY IS LIFE.

THE GREAT HOME HEALER.

Pain Vanishes, Blooming Health Returns at the Touch of Science.

Read of this Modern Scientific Machine that Heals, Teaches and Amuses.



Electricity no longer the master but the servant of man, represents to us light, heat and force. By these three great powers everything on earth lives and electricity means life. This grand machine is a combined motor and dynamo and gives a perfect electric organization. Most interesting and instructive of the recent products of electrical science; teaches and instructs while it amuses, young and old alike. Scientific in construction and no student or ingenious boy should be without it. Perfectly harmless, but produces no end of fun, by giving shocks to circles and many harmless tricks. **FOR A HOME CURER.** Doctors know almost every known disease and pain yields readily to electrical currents. The cost of electric batteries as generally sold places them far beyond reach of any but the wealthy. This Electrical Machine has been produced by the latest and most improved machinery and at nominal cost as compared with the expensive batteries formerly sold at $8, $10 or $20 each. The great improvements in machinery enables us to produce this and to offer it to you for a mere trifle. **See What Electricity is Used For.** There is no disease of the nerves or any bodily pain which will not yield readily to electric currents. This wonderful machine utilizes the forces of nature; drives out **Rheumatic Pains, Neuralgia** and every species of **blood** and **nerve disease;** Cures **Weakness of every kind and nature and restores youthful health and vigor. Works like a miracle for that worn out feeling and languor and despondency and strengthening nervous system with a direct** (not alternating) **current,** large in volume but pleasant to take, no shock or irritation. Patent switch adjusts current to weakest child or strongest man. A valuable treatise by Dr. Cutten accompanies every machine shipped. We now place nature's great restorative agent, Electricity, within the reach of every sufferer rich or poor.

A Wonderful Offer to All. This Electrical Machine is needed in every home and family. We will send one to any person who will send us $1.00, and 25 cents to pay all shipping charges besides sending our great home paper, COMFORT, subscription paid for one year. ($1.25 for everything.)

Address COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.



A Complete Outfit of 44 Tools FREE.

GREATEST MONEY MAKER AND MONEY SAVER EVER SEEN: NEEDED IN EVERY HOUSE IN THE WORLD.

Hundreds of dollars are wasted every year in paying for repairs which could be done by you just as well as by the person you hire. "Yes," you will say, "I could do this work if I only had the tools." You have to hire the plumber or cobbler and pay him for his time while you stand around and look on, watching him do the work which you could do as well as he, but it is always that you have no tools. We have put together the best kit of tools for repairing which was ever seen, and we will sell the entire outfit for less than half the money for which you could buy it at any store. The outfit consists of **forty-four first-class tools,** as shown in the above cut, viz: **1 iron last for men's work; 1 iron last for boy's work; 1 iron last for women's work; 1 iron last for children's work; 1 iron stand for lasts; 1 shoehammer; 1 shoeknife; 1 peg awl handle; 1 peg awl; 1 wrench for peg awl handle; 1 sewing awl handle; 1 sewing awl; 1 stabbing awl handle; 1 stabbing awl; 1 bottle leather cement; 1 bottle rubber cement; 1 bunch bristles; 1 ball shoe thread; 1 ball shoe wax; 1 pkg. clinch nails, 4-8 in.; 1 pkg clinch nails 5-8 in.; 1 pkg. clinch nails, 6-8 in.; 1 pkg. heel nails; 4 prs. heel plates, assorted sizes; 6 harness needles; 1 harness and saw clamp; 1 box slotted rivets, assorted sizes; 1 rivet set for same; 1 harness and belt punch; 1 soldering iron, ready for use; 1 handle for same; 1 bar solder; 1 bar resin; 1 bottle soldering fluid; 1 copy directions for halfsoling, etc., 1 copy directions for soldering** all securely packed, together with directions for use, in a neat case. These tools bought at a hardware store separately **would cost between $7.00 and $9.00.** You can repair boots and shoes, tap and heel them, mend your harness or make a new one, mend all kinds of tinware, repair pumps, plumbing and similar work, and do all kinds of leather work about carriages, etc., as well as repair and mend rubber boots, rubbers, overshoes, and all kinds of rubber made articles. The clamp is used for mending harnesses and filing saws. Has a coil spring and is made of iron. **You can easily save five times the cost of this outfit in six months** and make a heap of money doing little repairs for your neighbors and others. "A stitch in time saves nine," and if you have these tools in your house you can make repairs and save a great deal of money which you would pay if you let a break go or hired a man to do your repairing work for you. Every one of these tools are **full sized, practical, neat** and **cheap.** It is the only complete outfit in the market and thousands have been sold in past years for $3.00 when the outfit contained but about half as many smaller articles to people living in the country and small towns as well as in the city. This repairing outfit, weighing 20 lbs. will be sent by freight complete as above described for **only $1.62** which includes a 6 months' trial subscription to this paper.

GREAT PREMIUM OFFER.—If you will get up a club of 6 yearly trial subscribers to this paper at the special price of 25 cents each, we will send you one of these repairing outfits as a present to you.

COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

A $5.00 SHAVING SET FOR ONLY $1.49.

OR SENT FREE FOR A CLUB OF FOUR.



The average man saves about **twenty-five dollars a year** by shaving himself and by having a good outfit, you can take comfort enough and save dollars enough to carry you over many rough places in life. We have tried to get up a practical shaving outfit for many years, but the expense of fitting out a suitable case of bang-up **A No. one** tools has been so great that not until a visit to Norway and Sweden revealed the fact that **Swedish Razors** were now the best in the world and the makers were anxious to prove it to the American people could we do so. Thus we **bargained** for a large lot of the best quality at very low figures. By getting the goods from different countries and buying in large lots, we have made up a case of great value at very small cost. These outfits come packed in cases eight inches long, six inches wide and five inches high. The combination consists of **1 Royal Steel Swedish Razor, single value $3.00; 1 Genuine, Horsehide, Double, Reversible, Canvass-back, Nickle-hung, Ebonized Handle Razor Strop, value $1.00; 1 Real China Shaving Mug; 1 Cake Star Shaving Soap; 1 Best Bristle, large handle Lather Brush; 1 Cake Perfumed Lump Magnesia; 1 Stick rich perfumed Cosmetic**—making a grand $5.00 combination, all packed in a compact case ready for shipment. We estimated that nearly every man in the country out of necessity shaves himself at some time or other during each month and one long wait in a barber shop sometimes costs more than this whole outfit is valued at. Every man should have an outfit in the house for emergency's use at all events and we have thus got it together at a low cost so as to be able to offer **the best** articles at the lowest cost. **Every woman** should see to it that either her Father, her Husband, her Brother or her Sweetheart has one of these outfits. They make the best presents one can give to a gentleman, and **you can get one free as follows:** Send a club of five yearly subscribers to this paper at 25c. each and we will send an outfit all charges paid, or send $1.49 in cash and we deliver it free—extending your subscription one year.

Address COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

SILVER CAKE BASKET FREE FREE



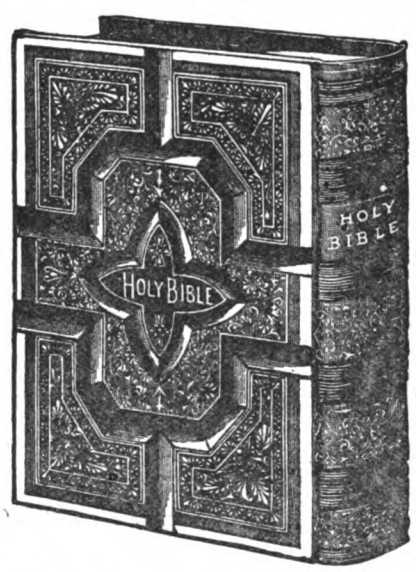
We have lately taken a large amount of triple plate silverware on a debt and will send you this Elegant, Gold lined Silver Cake Basket free, all charges paid for a club of six subscribers at 25c. each. This **Cake Basket** is of the latest pattern and will wear a life time. It is the finest silver plate, highly decorated with beautiful patent rolled edge. We only have a few of them left so get up your club of six subscribers at 25c. each, to-day, and you will always enjoy it. You can sell this basket for $3.98 in a minute. If you can't get up the club, send us $1.38 cash and we will send the Basket by express and include one year's subscription. We also have a fine five Bottle Silver Castor and a Superb Silver Butter Dish at the same price if you prefer either one to the Basket. Address,

COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

A MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE AND

A FAMILY BIBLE FOR $1.89.

DELIVERED AT YOUR HOME.



This edition excels all others in the excellence of paper and exquisite topography, being printed from an entirely new set of plates costing $20,000. The size of page is 12x9 inches, the print large and clear, and there are TEN BEAUTIFUL FULL-PAGE PHOTOGRAVURE PICTURES of rare artistic excellence and some of the **most superb masterpieces of Modern Paintings,** being in harmony with the justly celebrated OXFORD TEACHERS' BIBLES. They are bound in fine **Morocco Buckram Paneled Sides,** and contain the Old and New Testaments, authorized version, a complete list of contents of each chapter in both Old and New Testaments, giving in concise form the subject on which each chapter treats; for instance, we find in this table that the 5th chapter of Deuteronomy contains the Ten Commandents, thus forming a ready reference table. It also gives the number of books, chapters, verses, etc., in the Holy Bible, also gives the number of times many familiar words occur in the work. also a very neat, plain **Marriage Certificate and Family Record.** Our New Bible is just what the people want; excellent paper, handsome illustrations, good, clear print, handsome and durable bindings, and last but not least, an EXTRAORDINARY FAMILY RECORD, entirely different from that contained in any other Bibles in the country. The print is of large size, clear and distinct, just right for grandfather and grandmother to read without their glasses, while the full-page engravings will interest and instruct the little children. It is the book for every member of the family.

Our price by mail or express, charges fully paid to your post-office, is only $1.89. Only think of it! A Bible, 12x9 inches, weighing more than five pounds, for $1.89! In addition to the Bible we will give a year's subscription to this paper.

SPECIAL PREMIUM OFFER. Send a club of six subscribers at our special subscription price of 25 cents a year each, or a club of 12 at our special club rate of 15 cents a year each, and we will send it free as a premium.

Address COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

WOMAN'S DELIGHT AND MAN'S PRIDE.

An Article in which Luxury and Utility are Harmoniously Blended.

BEAUTIFUL IN DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION AND USE.



A writing desk and bookcase are indispensable in every home. We are enabled to make it possible for every reader of this paper to obtain a fashionable and luxurious article of furniture which will be of use every hour in the day, and, which by its rich elegance and tasteful appearance, will prove an ornament in every home where it is placed.

THE ELITE WRITING DESK AND BOOKCASE

is richly designed in the artistic and graceful Modern-Antique Style that is the correct style in the homes of wealthy and fashionable people in society. It is built of **clear, solid oak,** in a **thorough and substantial manner,** and will last a century with ordinary care, growing handsomer as the wood constantly improves with age. It is **5 feet in height, and 2 feet 6 inches in width. Four large, deep shelves** for books or vases and *bric-a-brac*; and a splendid desk with **folding top, full compliment of pigeon-holes and receptacles** for paper, envelopes, letters, bills, securities, etc. In fact, a perfect and complete secretary for the library, the office, the parlor, or anywhere where an ornamental desk is needed. The most desirable premium ever offered to the people at a popular cost, and everyone guaranteed satisfactory.

Our Grand Offer. We will send this **splendid** bookcase and desk, exactly as described, to any person who will send $4.27 for this paper for a trial year's subscription. Freight charges only to be paid by the receiver on arrival. This is the grandest offer ever made by a reliable publisher on any article of select and fashionable furniture.

Splendid Club Offer. If you will get up a club of only 18 yearly subscribers at the special trial subscription price of 25 cents each, we will send one of these cases and desks to you **Free.** Address, **COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.**

French and Swiss Music Boxes Outplayed by the New

AMERICAN ROLLER ORGAN.

THIS ROLLER ORGAN PLAYS ANY TUNE arranged for it, from a Waltz to a Hymn, with perfect tune and time. Gives better satisfaction than a HUNDRED-DOLLAR PARLOR ORGAN and ten times more pleasure. Plays more than 1,000 tunes in a superb manner and charms every listener. The grandest and most marvelous musical instrument ever presented to the public. THE NEW AMERICAN ROLLER ORGAN is operated upon a similar plan to the FINEST FRENCH MUSIC-BOXES. The instrument is thoroughly made. No better work is found in the most expensive musical machinery. A child can operate it. WILL NEVER WEAR OUT. This instrument is the Perfection of musical ingenuity and PLAYS SACRED MUSIC, MARCHES, WALTZES, POLKAS, JIGS, REELS, Selections from Operas, Popular Songs, Church Music, as well as any organ, and is arranged for DANCE MUSIC perfectly. YOU SHOULD HAVE ONE OF THE ABOVE DESCRIBED INSTRUMENTS. Nothing grander or combining so many features can be found in French or Swiss Music-boxes, costing $100. WE WANT A SPECIAL AGENT, EITHER SEX, IN EVERY LOCALITY, AND OFFER SUCH INDUCEMENTS THAT EARNEST WORKERS CANNOT FAIL TO MAKE $100 to $300 PER MONTH. When you order a sample instrument ask for Special Terms. These instruments will be offered for FIVE DOLLARS, IN BEAUTIFULLY CARVED CASES, with music. Send for one. It will fill you with astonishment and delight. If you want it sent C. O. D. send **$1.50** when you order and pay balance **$3.50** when you get organ. Send P. O. Order, Registered Letter or Express Money-order.



We will include a year's subscription to this paper to every one who sends the money in full for an organ. Perhaps you would like to get one and pay us for it in a few hours' work. If such is the case you may raise a club of 32 subscribers to this paper at our special club rate of 15 cents a year each, or a club of 17 at our special subscription price of 25 cents a year each, and we will send you the Roller Organ to pay you for your trouble. **Address, COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.**



A REAL ORIENTAL RUG

is a very expensive article and is used extensively in the homes of the wealthy. **This Rug is a Beautiful** picture in itself. An immense factory employing hundreds of hands is turning out thousands and as they are made in bright oriental colors and patterns they produce an exquisite effect when laid on the floor. **These Brussaline** Rugs are fit to grace the floor of a Parlor, Sitting-Room, Hall, Dining-Room or Chamber and for an entry or kitchen rug or mat are simply grand; they are made by an entirely new process of Machine Rug making, and thus called Brussaline and we are anxious to get them before the people at once. Thousands upon thousands will be sold after they are shown and we **offer you one free,** now, in order to introduce them all over the country and after getting one you can show them around, take orders and make money selling them for us.

A MILLION RUGS

are in use; yes many million Rugs, taking the world over but in this country **Thousands** now **use Rugs** where one was used a few years ago, they are constantly growing in favor and getting more popular every day. **Why?** because they are practical and economical and make the **House, Store** or **Office,** more easy to take care of and give a **certain dressy effect** to a room that cannot be obtained in any other way. You can use them on bare floors to cover up the cold look or lay them on carpets to save the carpet.

TO GET THE RUG.

If you will send us the names of only two yearly subscribers with 25c. each, we will send you one of these beautiful **Brussaline** Rugs Free as a Premium all charges said by us. This is the best Home paper published and sample copies will be sent on application, if you wish to show them to your friends and get up the club, We will send the Rug and a year's subscription for 67c. Address

COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

HA! HA! HA! FUN ALIVE!

The Comical Mirror.



A handsome convex mirror in a case suitable for carrying in the pocket. For many years the funniest and most laughable attraction in nearly every museum has been the large convex mirrors in which a person appears drawn out as long and narrow as a bean pole, or flattened down like a gridiron with a face as broad as a cellar door. This mirror produces the same effect as the large and expensive mirrors in the museums. By holding the mirror in an upright position stout people look thin and in a horizontal position thin people look stout; anyone can recognize themselves at once, but their features are so distorted and their general appearance so changed that they cannot fail to have a good laugh over it. If you have a friend (lady or gentleman) who think they are a little better looking than anyone else, let them take a peep into the mirror and it will take them down a peg or two—either the "short and fat" view or the "long and slim" view are stunners and will cure the blues every time. Send for one it will afford you lots of fun.



GRAND OFFER TO YOU. Send us **12** cents and we will send this splendid literary monthly for the Home, three whole months on a trial subscription and one Comical Mirror, postpaid; for **27** cents we will send you the paper 3 months and three mirrors all paid; or, for only **76** cents we will send the paper a whole year and one dozen mirrors by express Address COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.



WE GIVE THIS WATCH

FOR A CLUB OF 4.

Thirty Minutes is a short time, but many have earned one of these watches in less time than that. It is one of the very best watches for time ever offered to our readers at no matter what the price asked for it. We know, of course, there are watches that cost more money, because they are in gold or silver cases, but they will not keep any better time, simply because they cannot. This watch keeps not perfect time, we never saw the watch that did, but it keeps as near perfect time as watches usually do. We have such faith in this watch as a timekeeper that we send with every one a guarantee just as binding as that given with any watch, no matter what make. We are willing to give you this watch if you will do us a slight service, which you can easily do in an hour. We wish to increase our subscription list, and we want the assistance of every reader of this paper to that end. We do not want you to do it for nothing, we will reward you for it. You can easily secure this valuable watch if you get four subscribers to this paper, at our special subscription price of 25 cents a year each. Do this, sending us $1.00, with the names of four subscribers to this paper, and we will send our paper to each subscriber for one year, and we will send you the watch to reward you for your efforts in our behalf. Start out now and see what you can do. Remember we guarantee every watch. If you get five subscribers and send us $1.25 for the same we will also send you a nice chain. Address **COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.**



CUT GLASS, SILVER TOP CREAM PITCHER FREE.

This refined Cut Glass finish Cream Pitcher is like crystal diamonds in its sparkling beauty; and is just a neat handy size for table creamer. Its pattern is the latest thing in style, and having a **Quadruple Silver Plated Rim** to top it out makes it as dainty as it is chaste and beautiful. Heretofore anything in **cut glass** has been so very expensive that the price has prevented its general use. By the invention of special new machinery the high cost has been largely overcome and we can now present a premium of genuine worth to be given free for a few minutes work. This cream pitcher with its dainty silver topped rim is pretty enough to grace any table and it will give a fine effect and make a good setting to the rest of one's table fittings. It should sell for 67c, but we will send one free, all charges paid, for a club of two yearly subscribers at 25c each or send 33c for a year's subscription and we will send the creamer to you free. **COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.**

THE LOVER'S ENCYCLOPAEDIA.

Fun, Amusement, and Instruction for All.



No young lady or young man can be quite "up-to-date" without the knowledge which this book contains.

It tells the art and etiquette of conversation—how, when and where to talk.

It gives full instructions regarding dress and personal appearance, and the secret of ease and grace in deportment and conversation under embarrassing circumstances.

It tells how to cure bashfulness. Worth $5 to any bashful young man. It gives full instructions in the art of winning the opposite sex. It tells how to choose a partner for life. The laws of marriage. How to make courting a success. How to propose. Marriage and its results. It gives dozens of funny love letters, and scores of odd and ingenious proposals never before published. Everyone may get new ideas to fit any case.

It contains fifteen hundred gems of prose and poetry, choice selections suitable for inscriptions with birthday, holiday and wedding gifts, Christmas, New Year's and Easter cards, autograph albums, valentines, etc., etc.

It is literally packed from cover to cover with **just the things you want to know.** It is a regular 50 cent book, but we will mail them to any address, carefully wrapped, for just half price, one copy for **25 Cents.**

Which includes a three months' subscription to COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.



—THE— EAGLE CLAW,

A WONDERFUL INVENTION. BEST TRAP IN THE WORLD for CATCHING FISH, ANIMALS, AND ALL MANNER OF GAME.



A wonderful and most ingenious device. It is easy to set, suited to any bait, can be used anywhere, nothing CAN ESCAPE UNTIL RELEASED. Every fish, muskrat, or squirrel which bites at the bait is **surely caught.** Perfectly safe for children, will not rust. **One bait will catch from 20 to 30 fish.** Will spring in any position; in short, it is a grand triumph over the unsafe and uncertain common fish-hook. Highly recommended by the Tribune, World, Press, and the Turf, Field and Farm. The Ohio Farmer says: "The Eagle Claw is a very ingenious article. The best device for catching fish and game we ever saw. Safe, sure and convenient." No. **1** is for all ordinary fishing, the ladies' favorite. No. **2** is for general use, both large and small fish and game. We have sold thousands, and they have all given splendid satisfaction.

PREMIUM OFFER. We will send a No. 1, Eagle Claw Hook and our splendid monthly paper six months on trial for only 30 cents; or, send us 50 cents and we will send the No. 2, Eagle Claw-hook and our paper on trial six months. Price, per dozen, by express, No. 1, $2.25; No. 2, $3.50.

Address COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.



THE MAGICAL SPONGE.

THE WONDER OF THE 20th CENTURY.

For Polishing and Cleaning Windows, Signs, Mirrors, Show Cases, Gold, Silver, Nickel, also Jewelry, Copper, Brass and Tin.

For the Bath IT HAS NO EQUAL.

A **Labor-Saving** device entirely new and **universal in demand.** Will last a lifetime and costs but **Twenty-five cents. Just on the market and over 500 Gross** sold last month. Every family in the land wants one or more. All you do to sell them is simply show the lady of the house or the office man how it works on his window and you will depart with one less every time, but in its place a quarter.

The **Magical Sponge** differs from the ordinary sponge in nature, while the common sponge is of **vegetable origin** and found in the ocean, the Magical Sponge is a **mineral production** and found in the United States, dug from the ground, carefully prepared and manufactured into sponges for the **Housekeeper, Merchant, Liveryman, Metal Workers,** and all persons who desire to keep their homes, offices, and business places in a clean and healthy condition.

No Soap or water is needed or even used with the Magical Sponge for Cleaning Windows or any outside Metal. In the **winter time** it has no equal, it does not freeze, and no water being used (other than what is in the sponge) all trouble and hard work is avoided. For Cleaning **Baseboards, Window Sills, Wainscoating and painted surfaces,** it acts like a charm; takes all the finger marks, spots, grease and dirt away, leaving a **Clean, Polished Surface.**

Good men wanted all over the country to handle these goods, big inducements offered steady workers, and exclusive sale. **To Agents, Salesmen, and house to house canvassers,** who send us 25 cents for a **6 months' subscription,** we will send one sample post paid, and make them a business proposition. Write at once. Secure your territory.

Address COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

UNIFORM YOUR CLUB.



BOYS' LEAGUE BASE BALL OUTFIT.



PRICE, $2.00.

EACH OUTFIT CONTAINS

- 9 BASE BALL CAPS.
- 9 BASE BALL BELTS.
- 1 BASE BALL.
- 1 BASE BALL BAT.
- 1 THROWING GLOVE.
- 1 CATCHER'S MITT.
- 1 CATCHER'S WIRE MASK.
- 1 BOOK COMPLETE BASE BALL RULES.



Boys, here is a chance to get a Complete Outfit at a Bargain. Send us your order **quick.** Price, Complete Outfit, packed in strong case, only **$2.00.**



Every boy wants his club in uniform. Here is the chance. Jim dandy goods and latest league pattern. Complete outfit for young prize winners. Take a pride in your club and work for it.

A BIG CHANCE FOR YOUR CLUB. Get up a club of nine yearly subscribers at our special trial rate of 25 cents and we will send one outfit **free.** Each boy get one subscriber and you get the outfit. Address, COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

NOTICE TO AGENTS.

A Profitable Business

FOR MEN AND WOMEN WHO ARE

WILLING TO WORK.

$3.00 a Day Sure.

DEAR READER:

If you are out of work, or are not satisfied with your present business and would like to make more money, it will be to your interest to read this notice. We do not offer you a chance to make a fortune without work, but we do offer you an opportunity to make money much faster than you can make it at any other kind of work. The country is flooded with circulars offering chances to make money at the rate of from twenty to fifty dollars a day; such offers are not business-like, and all agents who amount to anything are disgusted with such circulars, and most of them are thrown aside without being read. If you are looking for an opportunity to make twenty to fifty dollars a day, you might as well throw this notice aside also; but if you would like to engage in a good paying business, you will do well to read this notice through carefully. Then you can use your own judgment as to whether our offer is a reasonable one or not.

We guarantee that anyone who is willing to work can make from $3 to $5 a day at this business. We admit that $3 to $5 a day is not much of an inducement when compared to the statements made by some firms, who offer all the way from $20 to $50 a day for selling various articles. We do not make you such glowing promises, but what we do offer you has the advantage of being true. We might offer agents a sure chance of making from $20 to $50 a day, but the chances are that anyone who would believe such unreasonable nonsense would not know enough to earn his board at any kind of business. That is not the kind of agents we are in quest of; we want reliable agents with common sense, who are willing to work for good pay, and not those who are looking for an opportunity to make a fortune without work. We believe the only way to get such agents and keep them, is to furnish them with a good thing to sell, a real genuine bargain, and then to tell them the exact truth about the business. We have a large number of agents at work, and we know for a certainty what working agents can make. We know that $3 a day is the very lowest; most of our agents are averaging $4 and $5 a day, and often some of them make a good deal more than that. We have several agents who are clearing from $7 to $10 a day. But these are great workers operating in the best territory, and, of course, everyone cannot do as well, but it is easy for anyone to make, at the very least, $3 a day above all expenses in any territory. We haven't a single working agent who is clearing, on an average, less than $3 a day. Now, be sure that you understand us: We don't say that lazy, shiftless agents will make $3 a day, for they can't do it at this or any other business, but what we do say is that agent who are willing to work, not too hard, but the same as they would expect to work at any other business, can easily clear $3 a day above all expenses, in any territory, and if they have good territory to work in they can make anywhere from $5 to $7, and even $10 a day. If you want a good chance to work and get good pay for it, you will find it to your interest to read this notice through carefully.

The articles which we have for you to sell are a line of forks, spoons, etc., made of a new metal called "Brazil Silver." We will describe this new line of goods the best we can, then you can judge for yourself whether we are offering you a good chance to make money or not.

BRAZIL SILVER.

Warranted for Twenty-five Years.

Brazil Silver is believed to be the very best metal in existence for the manufacture of forks and spoons; it has all the lustre and brilliancy of burnished coin silver, and is much harder and more durable, in fact, it is impossible to wear it out. It is absolutely indestructible. The goods made of this metal are the same all the way through, there being no plating to wear off they will remain as good as new for any length of time. For all practical purposes in the manufacture of table ware this Brazil Silver is superior to coin silver. It is as lustrous and as pure as coin silver, and being much harder it will wear even longer than silver; in fact it is absolutely impossible to wear it out. It will wear forever. As there is no plating to wear off, the metal being the same all the way through, it stands to reason that you can't wear it out. Our confidence in the metal is so great that we guarantee it to wear twenty-five years. We give a guarantee signed by the company warranting the goods to wear and to give perfect satisfaction for twenty-five years. We are an old, strong and thoroughly established firm with ample capital to carry on our business and make our guaranty as good as the Bank of England. In selling these goods an agent can recommend them with the greatest of confidence, for they are just as represented, absolutely indestructible. And, furthermore, our guarantee warranting the goods to give satisfaction for twenty-five years, clears the agent from all responsibility in the matter; for if any article fails to give perfect satisfaction, no matter how long it has been in use, we hold ourselves ready to refund the money paid for the article. These goods are the same metal all the way through; they will never wear out. They always wear white and bright. We give a guarantee signed by the company, warranting every piece of Brazil Silver to wear twenty-five years. You can sell these goods to your best friends with perfect confidence, for every sale is as much a benefit to your customer as to yourself.

Working with goods that are warranted to wear and give satisfaction for so long a time as twenty-five years, and by a Company, too, whose capital is sufficiently large to make their guarantee good for almost any amount, is an advantage which no other firm is prepared to offer. If you want to make money fast now is the time to do it. If you think that five-dollar bills are good things to have, now is the time to get them. Never in the history of the agency business have agents had as good a chance to make money rapidly, and it is reasonably sure that they will never have another chance like it.

It is easy to make from $3 to $5 a day at this business.

All Marked with Initial Letters, Without any Extra Cost.

Among all classes there has always been a strong desire to have their table ware marked with their initial letter, but on account of the heavy expense of having it marked only a very few have been able to afford it. Heretofore the cost of artistically marking table ware has been even greater than the cost of the goods; now, by our new methods, we are able to offer these elegant Brazil Silver goods, all marked with any initial letter desired in the very highest style of the art, without any extra cost for marking. These Brazil Silver goods, even if unmarked, would be the greatest bargain ever offered the public in table ware, but with the additional and highly desirable feature of being all marked with beautiful and artistic initial letters, these goods are not only great bargains in table ware, but are the greatest bargains of any kind that have ever been offered to the public through agents or in any other way.

The people are always ready enough to buy what they want when it is presented to them in the form of a genuine bargain. Well, here is absolutely the greatest bargain every offered, and the agent who works with it will find that what he has is earnestly desired at nearly every house he visits; it is easy to get orders when you can offer great bargains, that the people really want and can afford.

It is easy to make from $3 to $5 a day at this business.

Table and Dessert Knives.

Our knives are made of the finest tempered cutlery steel and are triple plate, in other words every dozen knives is plated with 12 dwt. of pure silver and hand burnished. Our knives are of the highest grade, fully equal to Rogers' or any knives made. These knives will not wear as long as Brazil Silver goods, but they will wear as long as any knives made. We guarantee them to wear ten years in constant use. If not in constant use they will wear proportionately longer. We give a guarantee, signed by the Company, warranting the knives to wear and to give perfect satisfaction to the purchaser for ten years. As knives are usually used in families they will wear much longer, anywhere from fifteen to twenty years. They are fully equal to Rogers' knives and only cost about two-thirds as much. It may seem strange to some that we can sell so staple an article as silver plated knives at such reduced prices, but we are doing it. It is our way of giving the public good, solid value for their money. We are saving our customers about one-third of the price at which the same grade of knives are sold at the stores and jewelers. Any one who will take the trouble to compare our knives and prices with triple plate 12 dwt. knives sold at the stores and jewelers, will be convinced of the truth of our statements. We are making a profit, of course, but our unequal facilities and immense trade make it possible for us to undersell all competitors, and our customers are getting the benefit of the lowest prices known in the silverware trade. We are not only selling at greatly reduced prices, but we also guarantee every article to be exactly as represented and to give perfect satisfaction to the purchaser, or money refunded.

The First Thing to Do.

If you decide to accept the agency, the first thing to do is to send to us for the agent's case of samples, which is the most complete and perfect case of samples that has ever been prepared for the convenience of agents. Our complete and perfect case of samples is not to be compared with anything that has ever been sent to agents before. It contains the very best and most salable articles in the world. There is nothing in the market that agents can sell as fast and sell as easily and make as much money out of, as they can the goods contained in this splendid case of samples, and everything is arranged and explained so that any agent can't fail to understand just how to go to work to make a great success of the business. As soon as you receive the case of samples you are ready for business. And if you are willing to work you are just as sure to make from $3 to $5 a day as the sun is to rise. Take the case of samples and canvass your territory according to the directions sent with the samples, until you have taken orders for the amount of goods you are prepared to send for. Then order the goods from us and fill your orders, and so continue.

The Magnificent Case of Samples Which We Furnish to Agents.

The case of samples which we furnish to agents contains the following articles:

One Sample Table Knife, retail price, $2.10 per set of six	35	cents each
One Sample Dessert Knife, retail price, $1.95 per set of six	32 1-2	cents each
One Sample Table Fork, retail price, $1.95 per set of six	32 1-2	cents each
One Sample Table Spoon, retail price, $1.95 per set of six	32 1-2	cents each
One Sample Dessert Fork, retail price, $1.80 per set of six	30	cents each
One Sample Dessert Spoon, retail price, $1.80 per set of six	30	cents each
One Sample Tea Spoon, retail price, 95 cents per set of six	15 5-6	cents each
One Sugar Shell	25	cents each
One Butter Knife	25	cents each
One Salt or Pepper Shaker	25	cents each
Total retail value of Samples	$2.83 1-3	

We also send you with the case of samples a large and very beautiful catalogue, illustrating a full line of plated ware, such as Casters, Pickle Cruets, Butter Dishes, Tea Sets, Napkin Rings, etc., etc., etc.

Reckoning the above samples at our lowest retail prices they amount to $2.83 1-3. We furnish them to agents nicely put up in an elegant sample case or roll, for only $1.00, which is $1.83 1-3 less than they amount to at our regular retail prices. This is less than one-half of the retail value of the samples, and much less than they cost us. The sample case or roll, which the samples are put up in costs us nearly as much as we require you to send for the samples, case and all.

Wholesale Prices.

Wholesale or agents' prices and all necessary information for carrying on the business will be furnished with the Outfit. Remember we make everything plain to you about wholesale prices, methods, etc., when we send you the Outfit.

VERY IMPORTANT.

The business we are offering is straightforward and honest in everyway, shape and manner. Our goods are in every respect, just as we represent them to be. The Outfit we furnish our agents is exactly as we represent it, and is always sent the same day the order is received, just as agreed. We have tried to state these facts so they could and would be believed and still we are constantly receiving letters from parties who would like to engage in the business and would do so if they felt sure we were telling the truth and would do as we agree. Many of these doubters have been cheated and are not altogether to blame for doubting; the most of them say they think we are honest, they say we talk honest, but as they have already been swindled they don't feel like risking even one dollar and so, although our business is in every respect just as represented, and we always do just as we promise, we lose the services of a great many agents and they lose the benefit they might derive from the business because they are afraid we may not be telling the truth. Now, to overcome this spirit of doubt, we have decided to send Samples to all who wish us to do so, C. O. D., with privilege of examination at the express office. It costs us from twenty-five to forty cents more to send the samples this way, as we have to pay that amount for return charges on the money, but we are willing to do it and so prove to all that are interested that the Outfit and our goods are just what we claim. If after reading this notice you think you would like to give the business a trial, but wish to see the Sample Case before you pay the **one dollar** cut out the following printed form, fill it out and send it to us and we will send the Outfit to your express office prepaid, and give the express agent instructions to let you thoroughly examine the Outfit, then, if you are satisfied that we have told the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, and are also satisfied that you can make money selling our goods, you can pay the express agent **one dollar** and take the Outfit. If you are not satisfied, you can refuse to take it and the agent will return it to us. No other firm has ever made such an offer. We have adopted this plan in order to convince the most skeptical and to secure the services of all the good working agents in the United States.

(CUT OUT THE FOLLOWING FORM.)

Form to be Signed by those who wish us to send the Outfit C. O. D. with Privilege of Examination.

ROYAL MANUFACTURING CO., DETROIT, MICH.:

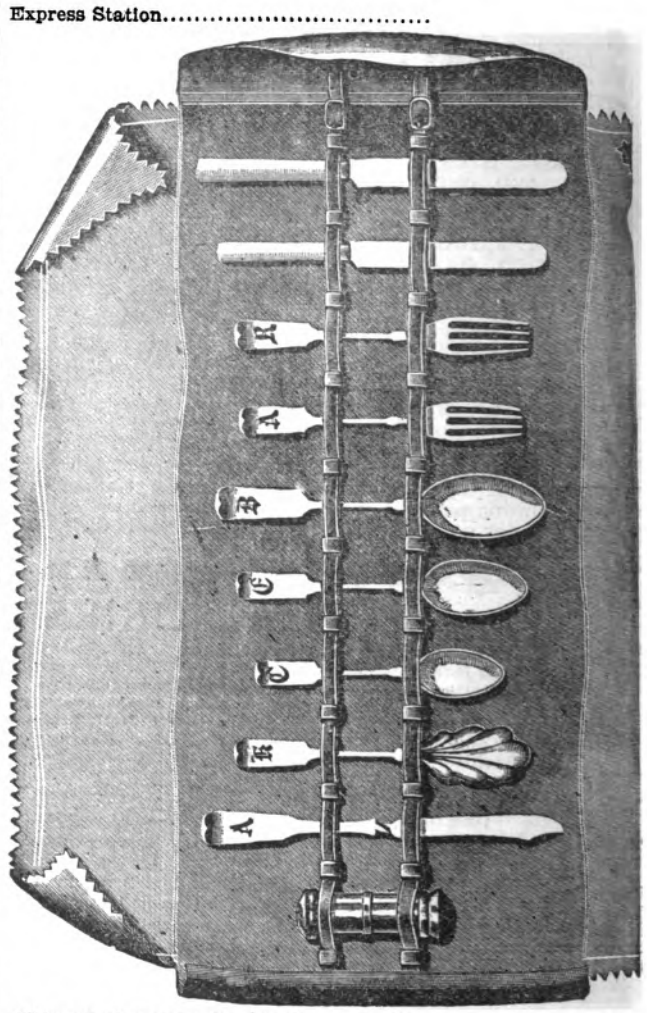
GENTLEMEN—Send the Outfit by Express, C. O. D., with privilege of examination. If I find the Outfit just as you say, I will pay the **one dollar** required and give the business a fair trial, but if I am not satisfied that the Outfit is as good as you recommend it to be, I shall refuse to receive it. Now, remember, the understanding is that I am not to take the Outfit unless I, myself, am satisfied that it is all right. It must all depend on my own judgment. If I am satisfied, I will take the Outfit; if I am not satisfied, I shall not take it and shall not pay the **one dollar** If you want to send the Outfit with this understanding, **send it along C. O. D., with privilege of examination.**

Name.....

Postoffice.....

County..... .....State..... .....

Express Station.....



This cut shows the Sample Case or Roll, and how the samples appear put up ready for business. The Roll is made of highly finished waterproof canvas, and lined with soft flannel goods. The samples are held in place by strong straps. The whole rolls up and fastens with a leather strap which is firmly fastened to the back of the Roll. This is the most practical arrangement for carrying the samples that could be thought of. When rolled up the Case is compact and easy to carry. When open the samples show to the best possible advantage, making a good impression at first sight. This Sample Roll gives a business-like appearance; it is substantial and handsome, and invariably gives the impression that there is something valuable inside. All are anxious to see what it is you are carrying around with such care. This is of importance as it secures attention and interest at the start. There is nothing like having your samples put up in a business-like shape; it gives a favorable impression from the start, which is half the battle. It is the same in all matters. A store that looks like business attracts customers; while, from a shanty store, you would not, as a rule, expect the best things. The fact is, in the agency business, as in every other business, you must have things fixed up just right if you expect to succeed. Our Brazil Silver Goods are the best that have ever been offered for the price, or anywhere near it. The new feature of being marked with beautiful and artistic initial letters, free of cost, is the greatest popular hit of the times; and the *Sample Roll is arranged so as to show the goods off to the best possible advantage.* Furthermore, we carefully teach every agent just how to take advantage of all these splendid qualities and popular features. Is it any wonder that our agents succeed better than those who are working for other firms?

We Prepay all Express Charges on Everything. We pay the charges on the Outfit and on all goods ordered. Remember, we pay all express charges.

ROYAL MANUFACTURING CO.,

Box 4100, DETROIT, MICH.

OCTOBER 1900 PRICE 5 CENTS
VOLXII NO 12 MN 144

COMFORT

THE KEY TO A MILLION AND A QUARTER HOMES

NEW YORK AUGUSTA, MAINE. BOSTON

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Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
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21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			



PRIZE STORIES.

The following conditions govern the awarding of cash prizes for Nutshell Stories, and the manuscripts of such writers only as have complied with all these requirements will receive consideration.

All the necessary particulars being here clearly set forth, it will be useless for anyone to seek further information or personal favors by addressing the editor, as such letters cannot be answered.

1. *Only persons who are regular paid up yearly subscribers to "Comfort" and who send with every manuscript at least two yearly subscribers (together with 50 cents to pay for each subscriber so sent) may compete for the prizes.*

2. *All contributions must have the number of words they contain plainly noted thereon in addition to the writer's full name and address with nom de plume if desired; must be written on one side of the paper only, enclosed in the same envelope as the letter and remittance for new subscriptions, and addressed to* EDITOR NUTSHELL STORY CLUB *care of* COMFORT, AUGUSTA, MAINE.

3. *All stories must be* strictly original *with the contributors, and must not have appeared in print before. Competitors may write upon any subject, whether based upon fact, fancy or fiction—of adventure, love, war, peace; of city or country life, or of experiences on land or sea—but no story must contain more than* 2,000 *or less than* 1,000 *words.*

4. NO MANUSCRIPT WILL BE RETURNED UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES AND COMPETITORS SHOULD THEREFORE RETAIN A COPY OF WHAT THEY SEND.

5. *From* $5 *to* $20 *will be paid for stories, and remittances will be sent by check as soon as awards have been made.*

No premiums will be given for subscriptions sent in under this Short Story Prize Offer.

The Publishers of "Comfort" reserve the right to purchase at their established rates any stories submitted under the foregoing offer, which failed to secure a prize.

☞ *Writers who hear nothing of their manuscript may at the end of* 90 *days after submitting them to "Comfort" feel at liberty to offer their stories for sale elsewhere.*

PRIZE WINNERS FOR OCTOBER.

Mark Stronghold, First Prize.
H. M. Winslow, Second Prize.
M. B. Thrasher, Third Prize.
Wakefield Shaw, Fourth Prize.
F. E. Burnham, Fifth Prize.

THE MAN OF SIERRA ABAJO.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY MARK STRONGHOLD.

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THE official census credits San Juan county with three hundred souls. If this is not an error, there must be a plurality of souls to every inhabitant. The latter contingent is possibly the true explanation of the situation; for this great, triangular expanse of barren country lies within the borders of Utah and Mormonism.

No effort has been made to enumerate prairie-dogs, coyotes, rattle-snakes and scorpions; but they are there, and nowhere more plentiful than in the thirty miles of sun, sand and giant cactus which stretch from Cataract Canon on the Colorado to the ragged peaks of Sierra Abajo.

Elder Ophir's opinion of this particular portion of his native state was more forceful than elegant.

"And may Heaven pardon a sinful man for saying what he thinks," he concluded, much to the amusement of his companion.

The Elder applied spurs to the ribs of his winded horse, and the man riding at his side fell to using a raw-hide quirt.

"Another mile of this, Hamblin," gasped the Elder, "and we'll both be dead."

"We'll have company," and he pointed to a small speck out over the quivering sand.

As the riders slowly drew together, the Elder strained his eyes to make out what manner of man approached.

"Bless me," he cried, "the man's riding a white burro. And look at that white robe he's wrapped in."

The stranger rode with his chin resting upon his breast, and a huge sombrero pulled down over his face. He came abreast of the Elder and his companion, and passed them without a word.

"Well, that's cool," laughed Hamblin. "Hi there! who are you?"

The white burro came to a full stop. The stranger lifted the sombrero from his head, and slowly turned round in the saddle. His long, curling hair and forked beard were of a dull copper hue, and his face was a chalky white. Fixing his deep-set eyes upon Hamblin, he answered:

"Some say that I am God, and others, a prophet. I am neither. I am a man even as yourself."

"Where are you from, and where are you going?" questioned Elder Ophir.

"I am from Sierra Abajo," the man responded, "and I am going into all the world to turn sinners to repentance."

"Blasphemy!" muttered the Elder.

"His hands—look at his hands!" exclaimed Hamblin, excitedly. "He's manacled."

"An escaped lunatic," said the Elder.

"Think you that I do this save of my own will?" the man answered; and lifting up his hands, he burst the chains apart.

"Filed!" the Elder gasped weakly.

At that moment Hamblin reeled and fell from his horse. In an instant the strange man was at his side.

"Get out of the way," the Elder said, dismounting and producing a flask of whiskey. "None of your mummery here."

"But that is contrary to your law," said the man, pointing to the liquor.

"What do you know about the law of Mormon?" demanded the Elder, as he forced some of the fiery liquid down the throat of his unconscious friend.

"Woe unto them that follow after strange doctrines! Woe unto——"

Springing to his feet, white with rage, Elder Ophir struck the stranger a fierce blow in the face.

"Woe unto them that despitefully use you!"

The man was turning away when his eyes rested once more upon the prostrate form of Hamblin. Bending down he gently drew his hand across the rigid, upturned face.

"They weren't filed, I tell you," shouted Hamblin, springing to his feet. "Say! what's the matter?"

"You fell off your horse," replied the Elder, in a trembling voice. "Get into your saddle, if you can, and let's get away from this place!"

Meanwhile, the stranger had mounted his burro, and was riding away.

"Ophir," began Hamblin, solemnly, "I have a presentiment that this man will be the cause of your death."

Without replying, the Elder drew a revolver from the holster at his side, and springing into the saddle, made after the departing stranger. When within range he opened fire, and the white-robed figure pitched forward on the neck of his burro.

"How about that presentiment of yours?" the Elder asked, as he rode back with the smoking revolver still in his hand. "What's the matter, are you going to faint again?"

"Don't come near me," Hamblin sobbed with chattering teeth. "Don't touch me. Murderer! Throw it off, man—the rope—they are hanging you—help, help!"

"The accursed sun has turned his head," growled the Elder, glancing furtively over his shoulder. "What's one dead man more or less?"

* * * * * *

The railroad ran as far as Espanola and stopped, apparently exhausted. Ophir swore. He would have gone on forever. However, there was the river; he might be able to float out of the country. The railroad agent laughed when approached on the subject of a boat.

"This Rio Grande Del Norte is something of a river when it wakes up," he told Ophir; "but just now it wouldn't float a dead cactus stock."

Ophir pointed to where two burros were rolling in the hot dust.

"Is that the only way out of it?" he asked.

"That or afoot," replied the agent cheerfully.

"I can't do it," mused Ophir. "Nothing could be worse than a trip through that blazing hell."

"What's the trouble?" queried the agent. "Somebody campin' on your trail?"

Ophir started guiltily and a look of terror overspread his face.

"That's nothin'," the agent assured him. "You're not the only man in New Mexico that's wanted. I've taken care of a good many—when they were willing to pay for it."

Elder Ophir pondered over the situation until the agent closed up the little station-house and started home for the night.

"Better come along," the agent said.

"Are you alone?" Ophir asked.

"Yes—that is, no one there but my daughter."

For a few days following, Ophir experienced something like contentment. The hunted look left his face, and he was beginning to congratulate himself upon his successful escape. Then Marcia, the agent's daughter, came to him with tears and words of warning. A little later she handed him a crumpled telegram.

"Father's telegraphed them that you are here," said the girl. "We'll have to go tonight."

"We?"

"Yes, I'm goin' with you," she said. "You couldn't ever get away by yourself."

Ophir objected, but Marcia was obdurate. That night they crossed the Rio Grande, traversed on foot a mile of sandy plain, and finally took refuge in the old church of Santa Cruz.

A brother of the Order of Penitentes rose from his devotions as the fugitives entered.

"God be with you," he said faintly. "What do you seek?"

"Safety, holy brother," answered the girl.

"Safety for the body," he murmured; "but what of the soul?"

He moved onward as far as the open door, his face looking wan and haggard in the uncertain moonlight. Suddenly he swayed forward and fell heavily. The long robe slipped back from his shoulder, disclosing a hundred bleeding wounds.

Ophir bore the unconscious body of the Penitente to the adobe chapter house, and in return for this kindness, one of the brothers found shelter for Marcia at the convent.

Ophir returned to the church. Left alone with his conscience, he was unable to close his eyes. He rehearsed every detail of the murder. Knowing the deep reverence with which the people had regarded the Healer, he could almost feel the noose tightening about his neck.

When the dawn came at last, Ophir was in a condition bordering on nervous prostration. The brothers of the Order of Penitentes took him in charge, and in a short time were possessed of his story. They showed him the only sure means of escape—spiritual escape—for the body was too base to receive other attention than the scourge.

Two days of fasting and prayer, with no sight or sound of the outer world, and Elder Ophir of the church of Mormon renounced all earthly ties. He preferred to be known as Brother Sombra of the Order of Penitentes.

This was at the beginning of Holy Week. The image of the Virgin had already been placed in the centre of the white chapel, with its blood-stained walls, and two lay brothers were out on the plains gathering cactus stalks.

The day for the public service at last arrived, and with it crowds of curious spectators. The excitement grew intense as the long line of half-naked expiants left the chapter-house, and started for the scene of their sufferings. Inside the chapel, piled knee-deep and surrounding the image of the Virgin on all sides, was a compact mass of cactus stalks. Over this awful bed of poisonous spines the brothers were to walk or crawl, pleading, meanwhile, for the forgiveness of their sins.

At the head of the long line came the new brother, towering above all the rest. They reached the door of the chapel.

"For the remission of sins," said Ophir, and stepped into the bristling spines of the cactus.

A cry broke from his lips, and he made as if to draw back, but the others pushed him forward. His feet were now bathed in blood, and his face was distorted with suffering. Many crowded on ahead of him, and the wails and prayers rose to a wild discordant clamor.

Strengthened by the frenzy of those about him, Ophir reached the image, embraced the cross beside it, and succeeded in returning to the door. The blood was gushing from his wounds, and he was raving like a madman. The crowd shrank back before him as he appeared. Out across the waste of sand he ran with incredible speed, on and on until the sickly stream of the Rio Grande flowed at his feet. Then he hurled himself down and groveled in the water.

When Ophir dashed from the chapel at Santa Cruz, a woman struggled through the crowd and started in pursuit. All the way across the sand she ran, though unable to keep up with his terrible pace. She did arrive, however, just in time to prevent the crazed man from drowning himself in the shallow water.

"Let me go, Marcia," he wailed, his great strength almost gone. "I must do it—for the remission of sins."

While Marcia was striving to drag him to a place of safety, three men were stealthily approaching from the opposite shore. The girl at last caught sight of them.

"Look," she cried wildly, "they are coming to take you! Father and two others."

Ophir lay on the sand, panting. He made no sign of having heard.

The girl drew a revolver from her dress and examined it carefully.

"Give it to me," said Ophir, so quietly that the girl was startled. "Give it to me," he repeated.

Marcia handed him the weapon without a word.

The three men drew nearer.

"Why don't you shoot?" Marcia cried. "Are you afraid?"

"No," Ophir said, "I am not afraid. I will shoot! It is not time yet."

Suddenly the men closed in on a run. Ophir raised the revolver and placed the muzzle against his head.

"Have you come to take me?" he called.

The men came to an abrupt halt.

"Yes," said one of them. "We want you for killing the Healer, the man of Sierra Abajo."

"I murdered him," said Ophir, slowly; "but my sin has been expiated. Don't come any nearer or I'll send this bullet through my head."

The men moved uneasily and held a hurried consultation.

"But you killed him," one of them began.

"Yes," said Ophir, "yes."

"But he liveth to make intercession for your sins," came a strange voice, and a new shadow fell across the dazzling sand.

All eyes were turned to the intruder—a man robed in white. His long, curling hair and forked beard of a dull copper hue; his eyes deep-set; his face calm and pale.

"The Healer!" cried one.

"The man of Sierra Abajo!" gasped Ophir.

"Come with me," said the Healer, stooping and lifting Ophir to his feet. "Come with me and I will do you good."

OUR AUTOMOBILE.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY H. M. WINSLOW.

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"I BELIEVE," said Joshua, one morning last spring, "that I shall get one o' these 'ere naughtymobeels; they'd be consid'able fun."

"I guess the fun would be mostly on the part of the neighbors, seein' us make fools of ourselves," I said. I didn't for a minute s'pose he was thinkin' serious of buyin' one o' them pesky, resky critturs.

"Wal, I dunno," says he, "why we ain't as good a right to hev one as anybody else has. They've got a new one up to Snow's and I reckon it's about time we put on a little style ourselves." Joshua means well but he is apt to go off on a target as they call it.

"That ain't no argyment," says I. "You know the Snows are city folks and haint nothin' else apparently to do when they come to the country but astonish their neighbors by the latest and most outlandish methods there is. I don't feel thet we've any call to do that, not at present. We may be *able* to set up a team of elephants with a nigger driver, but that don't make it proper nor edifyin'."

"A naughtymobeel runs awful slick and jes' like a streak o' greased lightnin'," he went on. "I never see anything git over the groun' faster; it beats a bicycle all holler."

"Perhaps you remember your experunce ridin' the bicycle?" I remarked, somewhat dry.

"Why, they scoot right along over everything that comes in their path," he kept on, not noticin' my hint about the bicycle; nor wantin' to, neither, for he ain't forgot how he made a fool of hisself that day; "they don't want to either, an' everything jest has to stand out from under."

"Be you goin' to see your way clear to gittin' that new phaeton this spring?" I inquired. "I've clumb in an' out o' that top buggy as long as I want to; an besides my rheumatiz is gittin' wuss an' wuss every year."

"A naughtymobeel is as easy as a rocking chair," he went on; "You would think you wuz a-ridin' on floury bags of ease if you had one."

"I ain't a-pinin' for floury bags to ride on."

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I answered, somewhat tart; "a first-class upholstered phaeton is good enough for me. Upholstered in fine green broadcloth, with soft cushions to lean against an' that you can step into without a groan."

"All the bong-tong are ridin' in naughtymobeels this year," he replied, and with that attempt at argyment he picked up his last year's straw hat an' went out to see to his hoein'.

I thought no more of our conversation. I had known my partner to do a good many foolish things first and last, but I did not for a minute s'pose he would think anything more about this matter when he discovered the price of these infernal machines. So I kind o' forgot all about it until well along into June when one day I was startellated by hearin' the most awful noise I ever heerd in Pottsville. It was a cross between the hummin' of an enormous bumblebee and the roar of a cannon. I rushed to the door and there in our back yard stood one o' them machines. A strange man was atop of it and Joshua stood in front, admiration seated on his forehead and writ large all over his physiognomy. He looked kind o' sheepish when I appeared in the doorway.

"Goodness gracious me!" says I. "Will you tell me what this means?" I didn't s'pose he had done anything more than to get Snow's man to run one in.

"It means, madam," spoke up the stranger, "that your husband has got the bargain of his life."

"Yes," spoke up my partner, "Philura, it's dirt cheap. It's a real bargain."

"How much?" asked I, not sensin' even yet that he was actually buyin' the thing.

"The price is a thousand dollars, but they've knocked off a couple o' hundred and I'm goin' to turn in the steers and the lumber wagon and the grindstone an' a few other things to bring it down another hundred."

"You don't mean to stand there an' tell me to my face that you've actually bought that thing?" I gasped.

"Why, yes," chirped my pardner. "Ain't it a bute?"

I turned on my heel and walked in and sat down in my kitchen rocker and jes' set there, kind o' dazed. It was too late to say anything even if I could a' collected my wits enough to speak. But I was mad; oh, I was mad. I could have taken that man an' shook him jes' like a dog does a rat. He knew enough, however, to keep away till towards night, goin' off prancin' with the man that sold him the machine, I s'pose tryin' to learn how to run it.

When he come home to supper I had made up my mind not to speak about the thing till I had good cause. If all married women would use like caution they would save consid'able on family jars. So we talked about everything else but naughtymobeels and got along swimmin'.

It was a fortnight before he really dared to go off on the thing alone. Then he set forth, not another soul that understood infernal machines bein' nigh to warn nor to guide. I see him start off but I hadn't spoke since it came home nor I wouldn't. I knew I might never see my man again, but I also knew I couldn't speak without bringin' on a quarrel, an' I thought it better for him to depart in peace if he must go.

One hour later a man on horseback came flying into the yard and yelling:

"Aunt Philura, come quick. Git your bunnit and come. Your man's hurt."

"How?" says I.

"The naugtymobeel ran away with him, smashed up seven teams, killed a dog, lamed a cow, scat several women into hysterics and roused the hull town o' Pottsville Four Corners."

I lost no time in gittin' into my own buggy and settin' sail for the scene of action, where I found Joshua a disconsolate heap on the ground and the naughtymobeel keeled over on its side, lookin' more like a elephant on doughnuts than ever. When he see me he began to shed tears, (my pardner, not the machine) so nervous and hysteric had he got.

"Dang the concern!" he muttered when I was near enough to hear.

"Joshua Winter," says I, "don't you swear one word. I won't hear it. Whatever's happened it's all your own fault. Mebbe sometime you'll listen to me. Now tell me the hull story. Where be you hurt?"

"My bones are all of 'em broke and every member o' my body's sprained," he declared.

"Has a doctor been sent for?" I asked, but jest then Doctor Johnson druv in. In one minute more he was examinin' Joshua. When he got through he had found a broken shoulder, a sprained ankle, and seven bruises which he called "severe contusions". Then we loaded him carefully into our old buggy (which he had so despised) and carried him home, where we did him up in all sorts of lineaments and lotions and plasters and bandages and slings and things till he looked more like the mummy of Ram a Poo of ancient Egypt than like one o' the selectmen o' Pottsville. It was a week before he would talk about his axident, even to a reporter for the Freetown Bucket, (and there is nothin' Joshua loves more than to be interviewed for the county paper); then he opened his heart, under the combined influence of good nursin' and the strawberry shortcake which had been uncommon good that day.

"Dern a naughtymobeel!" he broke out, apropos of nothin', as the novel-books say.

"Why-fore?" says I, knowin' from past experunce that his time of confession had come, and not darin' to say more. For confession is indeed good for a man's soul.

"When I bought that pesky thing," he begun, "they told me I could git the hang of it in a week easy. I took a fortnight and studied it as I would a jography. Bill Snow can run his as easy as not an' I was ashamed not to run mine. So I started, not lettin' you know, for fear you'd worry; women-folks are silly about their men, you know," he put in with a touch of his old swagger; it madded me some but I held my tongue. "I started off down the hill in fine shape; I kep' lettin' on the power more an' more, an' went faster an' faster till I jes' flew. I run over Jones' dog before I knew it an' then I saw a team comin' and that we had got to meet where the road was narrow; then I tried to shut off the juice.

"But I found that it is a great deal easier to git to running wrong than to stop, as the elder would say; an' I couldn't stop for the life of me. The more I tried it the more it wouldn't quit that infernal pace. I smashed by the team takin' a wheel off an' makin' the woman who was drivin' faint away; then I ran agin ol' Jonas' cow and I s'pose I shall hev to pay damages. All the time that dern machine was a-buzzin' and clawin' along like mad. I couldn't turn it to right nor left, and as for stoppin' it, that was beyond me. Men, women, dogs, children, cats, geese, hens and chickens fled at our approach; and ef it hadn't finally turned over into the ditch so's 't it had to claw upside down I suppose we'd a been goin' yet."

He paused, evidently waiting for me to say something. But I remained true to first principles. I had made up my mind not to say a word about the machine.

"I s'pose the'll be a lot of damages to pay. Anybody put in a bill or anything yet?" he said after a time.

I went to the secretary and took out a package of papers that had been accumulating for several days. I read 'em slow and impressive.

"To one cow, $45. To one dog, $25 (that was that yeller cur of Jones's.) To bull pup, $10. To damages to team, $35; and so on down the list. The sum total is $245.67. Do you want the separate items read?" I added in a real kind tone.

Joshua give a groan. "No; I ain't feelin' as well as I was Philura. Won't you rub some of that new lineament on my arm?"

And while I was rubbin', gently but firmly, as a man ought to be handled, he said:

"I have decided to sell that naughtymobeel an' git a phaeton. I never see anything better named."

Wifehood as the Test of Womanhood.

The Good Woman Who Makes a Bad Wife.

Marriage was a serious thing to the grandparents and great grandparents of the present generation. No woman entered lightly upon wedlock. She knew that she was going to found a family, and that she must be equal to all the responsibilities of the position she assumed. She must be able to order her own household; to knit, sew, spin, make bread, butter, soap, candles, and indeed care for and clothe a whole family. She must not be craven when the whoop of the Indian warned of a dreadful danger. She must stand by her husband, and with him, gun in hand, keep the foe at bay.

How many women of to-day could undertake wifehood under such conditions? Few indeed. Not because the modern American woman lacks courage, but because she lacks as a rule the physical health which is the primary and indispensable qualification for a life such as was lived by the women of the past.



That is why a good woman may be a bad wife. Virtue and goodness are excellent things in women, but to guide a house and bear children demands above all sound physical health.

WOMEN CONVICTS.

To a great number of women the house they live in is almost on a par with a prison. It is prison-like in the monotonous regularity of daily duties; prison-like in the absence of all pleasure in what is done or joy in the doing. And the reason is to be found in womanly ill-health. Few women realize how intimately the general health is related to the health of the delicate womanly organs. A woman may suffer with heart "trouble," disorders of kidneys, liver or stomach, or with nervous prostration as a result of a diseased condition of the womanly organism. Many such women "doctor" for years for various diseases, and wonder why they don't get better. They can't get better until the womanly organism is entirely cured of its diseases.

This is not theory. It is a statement of simple facts founded upon the testimony of hundreds of thousands of women who have been cured of womanly diseases by the use of Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription. They had been just "dragging around" for years, with throbbing heads and aching backs, nervous, dyspeptic, miserable. The once fresh colored cheeks had grown sallow, the eyes were dull, the body had lost its plumpness. They had in numerous instances tried many doctors and medicines, exhausting the local medical skill at their disposal. At last some friend or neighbor who has personally proved the curative power of "Favorite Prescription" recommends the use of this medicine and that in almost every case means another sick woman made well and strong.

ASTONISHED THE DOCTOR.

"When I first wrote to you I did not think I could live till I could get an answer to my letter," says Mrs. Isaac S. Harris, of Gayville, Yankton Co., S. Dak. "At that time I did not tell you everything. When I wrote you I had just got home from the Hospital at Minneapolis, Minn. Had been there one month. Could not see as I was benefitted any there, so I came home, thinking there was no help for me, and every one here said that I could not live. I would have sinking spells every day. Sometimes they would last an hour or more and I would be so weak it seemed almost impossible for me to breathe at all. Had night-sweats for three months, and my clothes would be just as wet as could be. Had uterine trouble also till I thought I would lose my mind; also had heart trouble so badly I did not know what to do. I suffered everything one could think of. We paid out so much money for doctoring, and there was nothing that did me any good till I consented to try Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription and 'Golden Medical Discovery.' I did not have any faith in these medicines at all, but I am only too glad to say that in three days after taking the medicine I could see a change for the better. In a week I could sit up and then I commenced the treatment for uterine trouble. In three weeks I was able to be around the house some. I have taken nearly twelve bottles of the medicine and still continue to take it. I am getting better right along, can ride or walk any place. I can never praise your medicine enough.

"The doctor here says that he never would have believed that your medicine could have done so much for any one if he had not seen what it has done for me. He also told me to keep on taking it, for *he* could not help me. I thank you a thousand times for your kind advice and for your medicine."

SAFE AND SURE.

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ONLY A SILK HANDKERCHIEF.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY M. B. THRASHER.

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A HUGE white government transport was slowly threading her way through Boston harbor, the smoke pouring more and more lazily from her yellow funnels as she neared her deck at the Charlestown Navy Yard. Some of the steamers which she met saluted her with blasts from their whistles, and the persons on the ferry boats crossing to East Boston crowded to where they could get the best sight of the passengers on her deck.

On board the transport four hundred men and women gazed with eager eyes at each new object as it came in sight. They talked incessantly, in a soft, musical foreign tongue, and constantly they used their hands and arms to help out their words with un-American gesticulations. They were Cuban teachers, the first detachment of those who were coming to Cambridge for six weeks of instruction at Harvard College, in the English language and American ways.

A company of excursionists on a Nantasket steamer waved welcoming handkerchiefs when their boat met the transport. Instantly the deck of the government vessel broke out into a snow storm of answering signals. In the cloud of white, one man was conspicuous because he was waving a colored silk handkerchief fashioned after the design of an American flag—faded, but still a flag.

A keen-eyed reporter on a tug accompanying the transport saw the flag, and made a memorandum in his note book. In his story of the welcome to the Cuban teachers, which was printed in his paper that night, he told of the incident, and the artist who was with him ran in a sketch which showed the Cuban waving the Stars and Stripes among four hundred handkerchiefs.

Two days later the morning edition of all the city papers contained the following advertisement, printed in both English and Spanish:

"Will the Cuban teacher who has in his possession a faded silk handkerchief woven as an American flag, and who waved it in salute when the transport McAndrew was coming up Boston harbor, be so good as to communicate with John H. Renfrew," at an address which followed.

John Renfrew was a young man who was studying law in the office of a well-known Boston lawyer, and supporting himself in the mean time as best he could, just as thousands of other young men have done, who, like him, combined a lofty ambition with low finances. Two years before—just out of college—he had volunteered for the Spanish war and had seen six months' service in Cuba.

Into the office in which this man was struggling over a complicated legal document, one day, about a week after the advertisement had appeared, there walked two Cuban men, inquiring with solicitous politeness for "Meester Renfray."

When they became convinced that the young lawyer was the man they were looking for, one of the foreigners cautiously drew from his pocket the faded handkerchief. Renfrew took it—almost snatched it, in fact—and ran it hastily through his fingers until he found in one corner the remnant of what once evidently had been an embroidered letter "R."

The dialogue which followed would have been ludicrous, to a listener, if it had not been obvious that the three men were so desperately in earnest.

Renfrew knew no Spanish, except the little he had picked up while a soldier, and the most of that, naturally enough was better adapted for talk around a camp fire than for a legal conference. His visitors could speak still less English. At the end of ten minutes, one of them springing to his feet and talking excitedly to his companion, made Renfrew understand, as he flourished his hands in desperation, that the two visitors were going for an interpreter.

An interpreter seemed hard to find, though, for the Cubans did not return that day. When they did come, the next morning, they brought with them one of the Harvard teachers, whose help soon made explanations easy.

"May I ask where you found that silk handkerchief?" the lawyer said.

"I found it tied to a bush, one day in summer, two years ago," the teacher was translating the Cuban's words. "There had been a battle between the Americans and the Spaniards, and the latter had run away. I had been hiding in the forest for many days, and I had been starved before I went into the forest. Many of those I loved were dead already then. When I saw the

little flag on the tree it meant much to me. It meant that a new life had come. I took it from the tree and I have kept it"—the Spanish word which he used meant "cherished it with my heart's love"—"ever since."

Renfrew, looking hastily up to see why the man had stopped speaking, saw that the Cuban's eyes were full of tears.

"Could you find that place again?" he asked. "I mean the bush on which the handkerchief was hanging."

"Surely, Senor," said the Cuban, when he fully understood the question. "It is on the outskirts of a forest in which I have hunted since I was a boy."

The lawyer studied the face of the man before him for a whole minute. Then he said: "There are five thousand dollars in gold, and the deeds to a sugar plantation buried near that tree, where no one can find them. No one has any claim on them but me. If you will guide me to the tree, one-half of the gold or one-fourth of the land is yours."

The Cuban's face grew dark, and his eyes flashed, as he began to understand the words which the interpreter was translating to him.

"Tell him," he burst forth, "that a Cuban patriot does not bargain for money with a soldier of the army which set his country free. Tell him I will guide him to the tree on which the flag was tied, when I go back to Cuba, and leave him there alone."

It took ten minutes of earnest expostulation on Renfrew's part, and of anxious choice of Spanish words on the part of the interpreter, to still the tempest which had been raised. When this was done, and Cuban sentiments of honor satisfied, the lawyer told his story.

"When I went to Cuba," he said, "my only brother, two years older than I, went with me. We were privates in the same company. My brother,"—he stopped for a moment, and then went on—"died in a hospital tent, and is buried in Cuba. One day when out scouting alone he ran upon two Spaniards who had bound an old Cuban man to a tree, and were torturing him with the points of their *machetes*. One of the Spaniards he shot; the other ran away.

"He carried the old man to a hut in the forest, to which the man directed him, and did what he could to make him comfortable. The next day the old man died, but not until he had given to my brother the gold and the deeds of which I have told you. 'They are yours,' he said to my brother. 'I have no one to leave them to. I am the last of my family. All who were dear to me have died or have been killed. Those devils whom you saved me from knew of my gold and were trying to make me tell them where it was. I would have died first, to spite them. I give it to you, now, because you are a man of the race that has set my country free.'

"He died," Renfrew went on, "and my brother buried him. He took the gold and the papers and started to return, but he found that during the day and the night he had been detained, a force of Spaniards had come down from the hills, and were then between him and the American lines. He tried to get past them, but found the enemy getting so thick that he was afraid he would be captured, loaded down as he was. He hid his gold, and the papers, marking a tree near the place with his handkerchief, and slipped between the Spanish sentries. He knew they could not hold that ground more than a day or two longer, and then planned to return; but the next day he was helpless with fever, and never stood upon his feet again. Before he died he told me about the old man, and the gold, and the handkerchief. I half thought it was a delusion of his fevered brain, and when, a few days afterwards, I tried to find the spot and could not, I felt sure that his mind had been wandering. Now I know he was right.

"How soon will you go to Cuba with me?" he asked a moment later.

That is why there was one Cuban teacher who did not remain in Cambridge to receive the benefits of the summer school. The man went directly back to Cuba with Renfrew, on the first steamer they could get; and now he is the owner of two hundred acres of the best sugar land in the island.

Renfrew may practice law sometime. He does not mean to give it up, he says; but at present he is busily engaged in studying Spanish and in planning how to invest his capital, so as to get as much as possible of his great plantation into bearing condition.

One good round portion of the money, though, he set aside first of all, and with it there is being built a neat schoolhouse, in which one of the teachers who went to Cambridge is going to be installed, to teach American ways to Cuban children. On the wall beside the door of the schoolhouse is a bronze tablet, and on the tablet is carved, in Spanish and in English:

"The lives of two brave men, a Cuban and an American, made this school possible. May its work help to unite the two races which its founders represented."

ARRESTING A SIWASH.

A TALE OF THE NORTHWEST COAST.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY WAKEFIELD SHAW.

Copyright, 1900, by W. H. Gannett, Publisher.



NO doubt travelers spending much time in any section of our western frontier, can recall some test of courage requiring more than the ordinary amount of nerve, that was taken by the performer purely as a matter of course.

This episode is merely one anecdote of bravery displayed at various times by a Captain Baker who trapped and prospected along the southeast Alaskan coast during the early days of the salmon canning industry. He was a broad shouldered, mild spoken man, and by sheer strength of personality was feared and hated by every Indian in the Tongas tribe. Today he is known as "Skookum Baker" because he once followed and captured an out-lawed Siwash when none other dared go.

Although a startling fact, there is a custom still in vogue with that half-civilized people which demands the killing of two white men for the death of every Indian, caused either directly or indirectly by a pale face; and there is no feeling of the injustice on their part, should the real offender fail to be among those struck down by the avenger's hand.

Being possessed of little real courage, this killing is carried on with a stealth and cunning exhibited solely by an Indian; they will seldom fight, save the enemy be at a disadvantage, or when cornered and brought to bay.

Even this being true does not detract in any way from the fearlessness displayed by Capt. Baker in the action recorded below.

Many moons ago, when whiskey smuggling was in its infancy, a man named Ford, arrived at Ketchikan in a small sloop, with a quantity of this liquor in the hold. A party of Siwashes went aboard, and set sail for—no one knows where. It is presumed that the party while under the influence of their contraband cargo, were drowned during a heavy squall.

At all events, after the discovery of the bodies some days later, the tribe held a hyiu pow-pow in the council lodge, that stands to day in the center of the village, during which the "tyees" (big men) spoke their minds, and agreed that twelve whites must die.

Toward the end of the ceremonies, Cultus Johnson, a bold bad spirit, brought forth from some hiding place a half keg of Hudson's Bay rum. Its arrival was the signal for a general and exciting good time. Cultus, whose brain was soon fired to a dangerous heat with an idea of displaying his prowess before the belle of the tribe, seized his Winchester and reeled toward the door which he threw open, and for one moment stood with sullen profile silhouetted against the orange sunset streaming through the mountain gaps on Gravina to the westward. Then he strode out into the October afternoon. There was murder in his eye, and his heart was bad.

Half a hundred yards away on the opposite side of the stream, a prospector, named McKenzie, was unloading a skiff upon the beach, unconscious that death was lurking near. An Indian is a remarkably poor shot; but in this instance, fate ordained that the hastily aimed bullet should speed toward its mark with an accuracy that would have been exceptional had the wretch been sober.

A cry, a fall upon the slippery kelp—that was all; but savage vengeance had wrecked itself on the first of the twelve, and poor McKenzie was that man. The rising tide lapped eagerly at the lifeless fingers clutching the sand, as if to hasten away and forever bury all evidence of the foul deed. This happened long ago, when the red men outnumbered the whites six to one. Although several of the latter were on the veranda of the trading-post and saw the act, none dared go to the council lodge and demand the surrender of the murderer.

Late on the following afternoon, McKenzie's partner, none other than Capt. Baker, who had been hunting that fall on the headwaters of the Chickamin River, returned to the town and learned of the previous day's affair from the little handful of excited men clustered about the post.

With the same indomitable will which characterized his later actions, he gathered some twenty armed men, and crossing the creek, commanded the Indians to give up their man. It was too late. Cultus Johnson with two companions had fled in a canoe to the village of Kassan on the Prince of Wales Island.

Nothing daunted, Baker called for volunteers to accompany him, and aid in arresting the outlaw. Much to his surprise no one would go; and in a moment of disappointed rage at their timidity, he fiercely berated them with scathing taunts—and went alone. Obtaining a rusty pair of handcuffs, and loading his little Columbia River sloop with a month's provisions, he hoisted sail that same night, and resolutely headed for Karta Bay, a distance of possibly forty miles.

Gale after gale of wind and rain encompassed his little vessel, but four days later, on a crisp fall morning, you might have seen his boat urged haltingly across the glittering surface of the great inlet, as he labored with the long sweep oars. At the village, a Siwash more or less kindly disposed, informed him that the men in question had gone down the east coast of the island, fishing for oligan.

Curbing his impatience at a second disappointment, he turned the prow of his sturdy craft upon the seemingly hopeless task of finding that Indian on an island which is one hundred and fifty miles in length, and whose shore line is so indented with bays and long inlets, that there are more miles of inland sea-beach than it has total circumference. It is hardly necessary to give in detail the routine of the days that followed. There were many nights passed under the friendly stars, and dreary ones spent in the drizzling wet beneath some giant cedar; and there were solitary meals cooked at noon-day on some rocky beach, or far up in a secluded cove. It was for his partner's death to spur him on.

It was expedient to use the utmost care if the murderer was to be taken alive, for a Siwash could be shot any day; but to turn one over to the authorities at Wrangel Garrison unaided, was entirely another story.

At the close of one afternoon, many days later, when the wild geese were honking their way to bed, high above the waters of Cholmondeley Sound, and the gulls were cooing near him within the lengthening shadows of the shore, he forced his way along with the heavy oars, seeking a camping place.

Suddenly his wandering eye rested upon a thin column of smoke rising lazily above a wooded point near at hand that he must needs be discovered ere gaining the shelter of some friendly cover. Perchance it was the camp of a trapper or prospector, as isolated as himself. No, surely it must be the Indians', for the smoke was blue and thin as vapor, and floated cautiously from the fir-tops, as if anxious to escape the hunter's vision.

The Captain's keen eye and active brain rapidly noted these things, and weighed the chances for victory or defeat. Then he resolved upon a plan so bold and aggressive, that without a doubt it was the sole reason for its complete success. Loosening his revolvers in their holsters, he pulled steadily toward the landing, never once slackening speed until the keel grated harshly on the pebbles. Stepping calmly ashore, he strolled toward the Indians, who glanced up from their cooking with apparent indifference. There could be no danger from this silent man who approached unarmed and in such leisurely fashion. It was more than likely that he had yet to learn of the killing.

There was no settled line of action in his mind, but while advancing, Baker carefully surveyed the encampment; and sparred for a time by addressing them with the usual greeting—"Klahowya."

Perhaps his tone, or possibly the forced smile failed to disguise the intense glitter of his eye, and aroused suspicion. At all events, their expressions instantly changed from idle curiosity to that of alert comprehension, and they sprang for their rifles. The time had now come for decisive action. Baker saw this, and with the calm smile of one well versed in what he is about to do, whipped out his big Colt's, and at its report the foremost Siwash threw up his hands and pitched heavily forward upon his face. The ringing command in their own tongue, "No! Touch not the rifles!" brought the others to an abrupt halt.

Motioning them to the opposite side of the fire, he tossed over the manacles, and explained in Chinook that they were to be placed on Cultus Johnson's wrists by his companion. An impatient movement of the deadly revolver hastened the operation, which was executed in sullen silence. Then Baker securely bound the remaining native, turned his back on the convulsive twitching of the smitten one, and coolly helped himself to the pot of "mowitsh" stew, keeping a close watch meanwhile, on the scowling savages seated across the way.

When finished, it was nearly dark. Taking the three captured weapons, he marched the prisoners down to the boat, helped Cultus to a seat amid-ships below the sweep of the boom, and told him plainly that he should kill him at the first hostile move.

Making snug for an all-night run, he informed the remaining Indian that he was "Sorry ter hafter plug his friend," and that he would find his rifle at the village on his return. Then loosening his bonds, the Captain ordered him back to the camp.

Standing in the stern facing his captive, he doggedly shoved the boat ahead of him into the gathering dusk. Toward midnight a strong wind sprang up. Thankfully hoisting the sail, he guided the dancing little vessel out of the sound, and turned up the Clarence Straits, where with a fair wind, he squared away for Wrangel, more than fifty miles to the north'rd.

History failed to record the drift of their conversation, if there was any—which is doubtful.

This much we know, that, after sailing all that night and most of the following day, the fearless Captain arrived at Wrangel Island, and handed over his captive to the officers of the fort, who summarily dealt him his just deserts.

This is the story in the abstract, with half the interest lost in omitting the quaintness of the Captain's own words. There was no boasting or self-conceit, and it was told as disinterestedly as though of another person.

One should have heard it as we heard it, while clustered about the open fire that evening, when the fierce Taku wind was hurling the first new snow against our snug log camp, and when the warmth within was so in contrast to the wintry night without, as to be conducive to the reminiscences of bygone days, when Alaska's frontier was more primitive and unknown than it is to-day.

SWIFT HORSE.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY F. E. BURNHAM.

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ROGER McGregor was engineer on the Night Mail running between Rochester and Montreal; his engine pulled out of Rochester each evening at seven o'clock, returning the following morning at six.

One evening twenty miles out of Rochester, McGregor's keen eyes made out the form of a man lying a few feet from the rails. It was a bitter cold night, else had the engineer paid no attention to the fact, tramps being a common sight with the railroad men. As it was, McGregor applied the brakes and presently brought the great train to a standstill. Returning, he found that the man had been overcome by the cold, and with the assistance of a brakeman he was carried into the baggage-car, where he speedily recovered, more or less touched by frost, but otherwise none the worse for his experience. The rescued man proved to be one of a company of Indians who were in winter quarters in a neighboring town. From that night he was McGregor's most steadfast friend, scarcely a week passing that he failed to appear in the railroad yard at Rochester, bringing some trifle to the engineer who had saved him.

McGregor's boy, a child scarcely five years old, played about the yard while his father was attending to his engine, and pleased that the boy took interest in the iron horse, McGregor frequently lifted him into the cab, showing him how to open the throttle, blow the whistle and ring the bell, and the end of it all was that "Little Mac," as the men called him, was able to start the great engine and make a prodigious amount of noise with the whistle and bell, a fact that mightily pleased the engineer.

One afternoon, just at nightfall, McGregor was called into the office suddenly, leaving the boy near the engine, amusing himself with bits of stone with which he was building diminutive walls. Ten minutes later, when he returned, the child was missing. There was something else missing, too, and it is not surprising that he noticed it the instant he entered the yard—it was the great mogul engine.

In the twinkling of an eye it dawned on McGregor that the disappearance of the two was more than a coincidence; he knew that none of the men would have dared to disturb his engine, and that the child would dare, merely because he knew no better. In less than thirty seconds McGregor had reached the telegraph office, excitedly told of the runaway, and ten seconds later a dispatch had reached Clinton, ten miles down the road, commanding the agent at the point to stop the engine. It was a wild order, as McGregor and the operator knew a moment after it was sent, but at such times men are apt to send insane orders.

Outside the station was Swift Horse, the Indian McGregor had saved. His keen eyes had taken in the situation, and as the engineer came out of the office he seized his arm, pointed to an engine that stood in the yard, then to himself, leaped from the inward to the outward bound tracks, and shouted—"I jump-stop big horse!"

McGregor was ready to adopt any expedient and before the words were scarcely out of the Indian's mouth, he had dashed into the office again and worded another dispatch to follow the first.

"Clear the outward track!" such was the terse despatch which the operator at Clinton received and which he obeyed.

Meanwhile, McGregor, Swift Horse and McGregor's fireman, were boarding the engine to which the Indian had pointed, and they were not long in rolling out onto the main line. The switches had been set so that McGregor's engine must have taken the inward track, and with the turning of one more, the pursuing engine shot onto the outward rails, and in far less time than it takes to tell it, the engine was gathering speed under an open throttle and forced draft, the fireman throwing in shovelful after shovelful of coal as the iron steed leaped over the rails.

McGregor knew that there was a freight train ahead of him, but confident that the agent at Clinton would give him a clear road, he was crowding all possible steam, anticipating the side-tracking of the freight. On the other hand, the Southern Express was flying toward him on the inward track, bearing down upon McGregor's engine, with its diminutive engineer.

At Clinton the agent frantically swung his lantern before the pursuing engine, the gathering darkness making a lantern necessary. McGregor applied the brakes, and the next instant he knew the meaning of the signal; just around the curve beyond the depot he saw the rear lights of the freight bobbing over the switch-frogs at the siding. For a moment there was a grinding of brakes and then the switch-light turned from red to green, and with a bound the engine leaped ahead, as McGregor threw open the throttle.

There was a straight three mile drop ahead and then a sharp bend in the road. Half way down this grade McGregor made out a dark object on the opposite track; it required little guessing to understand that this was the runaway locomotive. Scarcely had McGregor discovered this, when like a fixed star, the headlight of the Express appeared at the foot of the grade.

Swift Horse was standing beside the engineer, and the latter was doing his best to make the Indian understand how to close the throttle and apply the brakes.

Swiftly was the engine overhauling the pur-

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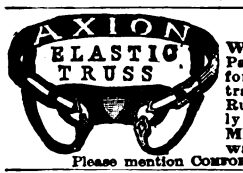
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sued. Swift Horse sprang nimbly upon the coal in the tender, gathering for the spring upon which the life of McGregor's boy and the lives of the passengers of the Express depended. Closer and closer the two engines drew, and there was a moment when they were plunging down the grade neck and neck, as it were.

Suddenly he crouched like a tiger, and the next instant leaped high in the air, straight toward McGregor's engine. The little engineer, unconscious of his peril, clapped his hands in childish glee as the Indian jumped. There was the merest fraction of a second that the Indian tottered on the swaying tender, and then with a bound the brave redskin reached the cab, shot back the throttle and applied the brakes. There was a tremendous pounding of the rails as the gripped wheels slid along, and for a time it seemed as though the momentum alone would produce a collision with the Express. Nearer and nearer the engine and the train drew, the Indian gripping the throttle desperately with one hand, while with the other he clutched the child; the engineer of the Express reversing his engine as soon as he discovered the danger, and doing his best to avert a disaster. Then the heavy train began to back down the grade and one minute later the truant engine came to a full stop. Twenty feet away the Express stopped, the two engines glowering at each other like angry monsters, one hissing and snorting, while the other only coughed and wheezed from sheer lack of steam.

Swift Horse grunted and turned away in a much disgusted frame of mind from the crowd of passengers who quickly surrounded him, eager to learn the details of the exciting race. He was not accustomed to praise and attention and would have much preferred riding quietly back to Rochester.

The rifle which McGregor presented the Indian a few days later, however, delighted the heart of the simple redskin.

"THE LADY WITH THE LAMP."

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



ON the fifteenth of May there was celebrated in England the birthday of a woman who is loved and venerated by all classes almost as much as the Queen herself is loved and venerated. This woman is Florence Nightingale. Her services to her country and to humanity in general have made her one of the best beloved women in the world. It is worth much to know about the life and work of a woman like Florence Nightingale. It is an inspiration to us all to know of any good life, and Miss Nightingale is a woman who has "lived worthily."

She was born in the city of Florence and was named for the place of her birth. Her father's name was Shone, but he changed it to Nightingale in order that he might inherit a large property left to him on condition that he thus change his name. He was a man of considerable wealth before inheriting this property and his daughter Florence was reared amid the refinement and ease of wealth. She received an excellent education and learned to speak French, German and Italian with all the ease and accuracy with which she spoke her own tongue. She was one of the most accomplished young girls of her day and might have shone brilliantly in the fashionable society of the time. But she cared nothing for fashion and society, and while she was still a young woman she began to give her time and thought to the improvement of the hospital system then in vogue in England. When she was thirty she entered an institution of Protestant Sisters of Mercy at Kaiserwerth in Germany. This institution was at that time one of the best training schools for nurses in the country, and Miss Nightingale here trained herself for the work she had chosen. She also studied at the hospitals in Berlin, Lyons, Brussels, Constantinople, Alexandria and the war hospitals of the French and Sardinians. Her experiences and the knowledge of the hospital systems obtained on battle fields filled her with pity and sympathy for the suffering soldiers and for the inefficient way in which they were cared for, and she resolved to better this system.

From her early childhood she had a heart that overflowed at sight of suffering, and she was always eager to help the sick. It is said that one of her first patients was a shepherd dog. Some boys had thrown stones and hurt the dog's leg so badly that some men were going to kill the poor beast to put him out of his misery. He would not allow any one to touch the wound until Florence Nightingale, then but a little girl, went up to him and said gently in a caressing tone:

"Poor Cap! Poor fellow!"

The dog looked up into her eyes trustingly, and, while she talked to him and stroked his head, he allowed his leg to be examined. She was told that there were no bones broken, but that the leg was badly bruised and that it ought to be fomented to take the swelling down. "Fomented" was such a big and strange word that the little girl did not understand what it meant.

"How do you foment?" she asked.

"With cloths dipped in boiling water," was the reply.

"That is quite easy," she said, and at once went to work applying the compress of old rags soaked in hot water until the dog was free from pain and out of danger.

This little incident made a deep impression on the mind of the little Florence, and increased her interest in suffering animals as well as in suffering human beings.

In 1851 Miss Nightingale took charge of a home for infirm and invalid governesses in London, and she was engaged in this work when the Crimean war began. In the spring of 1854 an English army of 25,000 men sailed for the Crimea, and in the following September the battle of Alma was fought. The troops had been inactive much of the time and cholera and other diseases raged so among them that at one time there were more than thirteen thousand sick in the hospitals, and in some of the hospitals the death rate rose as high as fifty-two per cent. Surgical operations were followed by gangrene in four-fifths of the cases operated upon and the condition of affairs in the hospitals was something deplorable. When these facts became known in England they aroused the combined pity and indignation of the entire English people, and five millions of dollars were quickly contributed for relief funds. Everything that could possibly be needed in the way of medical supplies were sent to the suffering soldiers, and doctors by the dozen were also sent. But there was still something lacking. Sir Sidney Herbert, of the War Department, was right when he said, "It is a woman's work, and there is one woman in England who can set this right, and that woman is Florence Nightingale." He meant by this that what the sick soldiers off in the Crimea needed more than anything else was such nursing as only wise and devoted women could give.

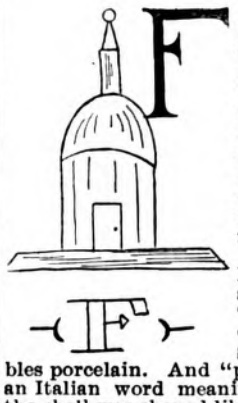
Sir Sidney wrote to Miss Nightingale asking her if she would go to Scutari and organize a nursing service in the hospitals there. He did not know when he sent this letter to Miss Nightingale that she had already sent him one offering her services in the Crimea and asking that she be sent to the relief of the sick.

Within a week Miss Nightingale was on her way to the Crimea with forty women nurses. They reached Scutari on the fourth of November, the night before the battle of Inkerman. They found nearly twenty-five hundred sick soldiers, and the battle of Inkerman added twenty-five hundred more wounded soldiers to those already in the hospitals so that there were in all five thousand sick and wounded men to be cared for. Miss Nightingale found things in a wretched state in Scutari. There was no laundry, no kitchen in which to prepare food, no systematic care, and, indeed, no system of any kind in caring for the sick and wounded. One could not imagine a more deplorable state of affairs, and any woman but Florence Nightingale would have given up in despair and felt herself to be helpless in the face of all the obstacles before her. But Miss Nightingale rose to the occasion. She set to work with fierce energy and within a week she had in operation a well-equipped kitchen in which meals could be prepared for a thousand men. She had other kitchens built together with laundries and bath houses and in an incredibly short time cleanliness and comfort and order took the place of the squalor and utter discomfort Miss Nightingale had found on her arrival. It is true that she had unlimited means at her disposal, but more than this was required to do all that was done for the comfort of the soldiers. Miss Nightingale went here and there and everywhere by night and by day directing her assistants and performing the most menial services with her own hands. She would walk between the long rows of cots, lamp in hand at night, speaking a word of kindness to every sufferer and laying her hand on fevered brows. One soldier said of her: "She would speak to one and another, and nod and smile to many more; but she could not do it to all, you know, for we lay there by hundreds; but we could kiss her shadow as it lay on the wall at night, and lay our heads on our pillows again, content." She was in the hospitals so much at night that she came to be called "the lady with the lamp."

Through the faithful, untiring and unselfish and intelligent efforts of Miss Nightingale and her assistants the death rate at Scutari was soon reduced from forty-five per cent. to two per cent. Miss Nightingale remained at her post until peace was declared. Then she traveled back to England under an assumed name to avoid publicity and the public demonstrations she had been led to believe would be made if the people were aware of her presence in the cities and towns through which she must pass on her way home. Nothing is more abhorrent to Miss Nightingale than publicity, and she sought to avoid the ovations prompted by even the most sincere gratitude of her countrymen.

CHINA TRADE MARKS.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



FROM China undoubtedly came our first porcelain. It is uncertain just when it was invented, probably between 206 B. C. and A. D. '87. It is said Marco Polo in his travels visited one of the places where it was made, and wrote that from there it was shipped all over the world.

Our word "porcelain" was derived probably from the Italian "porcellana," the name of a courie shell whose glazed surface resembles porcelain. And "porcellana" came from an Italian word meaning a small pig, which the shell was shaped like.

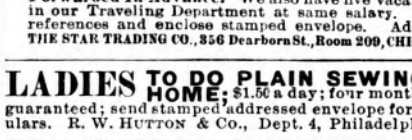
Probably the earliest manufacture in Europe was at Florence under the supervision of the Grand Duke of Tuscany between 1575-1580. A successful imitation of Chinese porcelain was dependent upon two essential ingredients—*china-clay* and *china-stone*. But much of the early china was formed from a similar substance answering practically the same purpose.

It is claimed that Venice had a manufactory as early as 1470, but none of this work has ever yet been recognized. With a possible exception of this potter at Venice and the products of the Duke of Ferrara, what is known as the Medici porcelain of Florence is the oldest continental work. Of this there are only thirty-six pieces in existence. The mark is the Florentine cathedral over an F in blue. The finest and best truly hard porcelain and the nearest to that of the Chinese was made in Dresden and the crossed swords were adopted as a distinctive mark. This mark probably and the Dresden pattern of decoration, have been more counterfeited than any other.

Manufactories have been started all over France at different times. The best work today probably at Limoges is done by Haviland & Co. At Sevres two men whose names begun with L started a pottery and their mark has always been two L's crossed in various designs. Another very prosperous china factory is Copeland & Sons, whose mark is usually two C's interlaced in green. In England, Chelsea, Worcester and Derby were at one time the most flourishing factories. Chelsea's most common mark was an anchor in red, purple, or gold. A black D surmounted by a crown is the Derby mark.

Cookworthy first discovered in England the true china-clay and for about three years had a factory at Plymouth. The alchemistic sign for tin, which resembles the Arabic numbers 2 and 4 in combination was used. At the works in Briston this sign was also used with three others. Bow (Stratford-le-Bow) used anchor and dagger in red.

Worcester is the only one of five great English porcelain works whose exact origin is known. And the celebrated Royal Worcester is probably unsurpassed in the world. A crescent was the original Worcester mark.



DRESDEN • BOW • SEVRES·WORCESTER·

Then followed various forms of W. Many pieces we find with B. F. B. surmounted by a crown. The initials standing for Barr and Flight who were at one time owners. The present mark, however, is a circle whose surface is interlaced with W's and surmounted by a crown.

In America excellent work has already been done. The Green Point porcelain works flourished only for a time 'tis said, because it lacked supporters. Often we become tired of looking only for the marks "Made in Germany," "Made in Austria," or "Made any where but at home." If we should insist on a "Made in America" sign our own country without doubt would in a short time be foremost in producing unparalleled specimens of workmanship and art.

The average daily earning of a locomotive is about $100.

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That Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People have cured obstinate cases of locomotor ataxia, partial paralysis, and St. Vitus' dance, is the best evidence that they will cure all lesser nervous disorders, because the principle in the threatment of all nervous diseases is the same. Nervousness is a question of nutrition. Food for the nerves is what is needed and the best nerve food in the world is Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People.

Mrs. Annie H. Magee, of Port Austin, Mich., says: "My daughter, Jean, was always a delicate child, had stomach trouble, nervous debility and general weakness. She had to be taken out of school and kept from all study for nearly five years. About three years ago she began taking Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People, and I am happy to say they have helped her to become a healthy, happy girl who no longer needs medicine of any kind. It scarcely seems possible she can be the same one who a few years ago was a delicate, almost a hopeless, sufferer."

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(Sears, Roebuck & Co. are thoroughly reliable.—Editor.)

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choking sensation in throat; oppressed feeling in chest; cold hands and feet; painful to lie on left side; dropsy; swelling of the feet or ankles (one of the surest signs); neuralgia around the heart; sudden deaths rarely result from other causes.

They will restore you to health and strength as they have hundreds of other men and women.

FREE To prove how absolutely I believe in them, to prove that they will do exactly what I say, I will send a box free to any name and address sent me. One trial will do more to convince you than any amount of talk. It will cost you nothing, and may save your life. Send for a trial box and enclose stamp for postage.

DR. F. G. KINSMAN, Box 962 AUGUSTA, MAINE.

OUR ALASKA BOUNDARY.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



SECRETARY HAY.

THERE has been a great deal said concerning the Alaskan boundary, and much misinformation exists throughout the country in regard to what it all means, and what the contention between America and Great Britain is upon the subject. We shall endeavor in this article to explain the whole situation, and the present condition of the disputed territory.

In the year 1867 William H. Seward, then Secretary of State, after much consideration purchased from the Russian government the territory of Alaska which was valuable to that government on account of furs, fisheries and timber, and a few known slight deposits of metals which had not been advantageously worked by the owners. The territory was merely a fur trading post for a few Russian companies, all merged into one large company under the protection of the government itself. On account of the very cold climate of St. Petersburg in the winter season, furs have unusual value for the people, and it was on account of this demand that this great company had established trading posts in the territory. The value of the country itself was very little apparently outside this one industry. It will be remembered that at the time of the Civil War Russia had shown great friendliness to the United States, and had averted foreign interference in favor of the Confederacy. It is probable that a feeling of gratitude on the part of the administration had very much to do with the final purchase of the territory.

As always happens in cases of expansion, the announcement that this territory was to be acquired by the United States met with the wildest and most violent opposition. No terms could be too coarse to be applied to a statesman who was far seeing enough to recognize the unusual value of what appeared to most people as a bleak and unknown country. A glance at the papers of that day will show that the Alaska purchase was taken up by the opposition as a subject for the most complete ridicule. It was as if the present administration should suggest the purchase of lands lying around the north pole. It is almost incredible that so little could have been known 35 years ago of a tract of land so large and so near to our own country; but the observations of the leading editors of that day would suggest that they were writing on continents on the planet Mars.

Notwithstanding this opposition all over the country, the bill was passed through Congress, and the country purchased in October, 1867, for $7,000,000, with all rights and benefits. In due course of time, many industries sprang up along the coast of Alaska, and permanent settlements in addition to those already formed by Russian communities were established at different points, notably upon the seacoast. The valuable sea fisheries, which became such a subject of contention between the two English speaking countries, assumed enormous proportions; and in addition to this, the art of preserving food in tin grew to such an extent that it embraced salmon and other fish on the Alaskan coast, and as those fish swarmed the rivers leading from the sea, it became notable for its exportations.



About 15 years ago, the well-defined rumors which had always prevailed relative to gold in the Alaska territory became confirmed in many ways, and an expedition was sent from the United States under Frederick Schwatka, who had gained fame as an Arctic explorer, to establish more definitely a knowledge of the value of the Alaskan possessions.

If any person will look at the map of Alaska, he will notice that the coast extends down in a series of indented bays until it reaches a point of demarcation on the British Columbia coast. On the western side of the territory, and following the general trend of the coast are ranges of mountains, which lie comparatively near the coast.

The real interior of Alaska lies to the eastward and northward of these mountains and behind them, and as these mountains make a natural water-shed, the course of the rivers is northward. Therefore, commencing very close to the coast, but on the mountains to the north and east, are the head waters of the Yukon river, which is the largest one in Alaska, and forming in its flow the famous Yukon valley. This great river flows northward and westward until it flows into the Pacific far in the northern country, and at its mouth it is frozen the greater part of the year.

To reach the Yukon valley, then, from the United States, it is necessary to sail up to some of the southern coast towns, cross over the mountains at one of the famous passes, and reaching the head waters of the Yukon to descend that stream until the point desired is reached. Different rivers flow into the Yukon from each side and come down from the gold bearing country, and at the mouths of these rivers it is customary for expeditions to diverge to go up the stream to such a place as is desired.

The southern point of Alaska, as will be seen by the accompanying map, reaches far down into Canada and makes but a narrow strip of the southern end of our territory; but that very feature makes it a troublesome thing to our Canadian neighbors on account of the indefinite terms of the original treaty which, briefly expressed, is that the boundary line shall follow the coast at a distance of ten marine leagues to the interior.

The contention of Canada was that the boundary followed the continental coast line ten marine leagues inland, jumping from headland to headland. This would have given them control of all water access to the gold fields by the Dalton trail, White Pass and Chilkoot Pass, control of all the Lynn Canal and of Dyea and Skaguay.

The United States contended for the line on all the recent maps, which followed the windings or sinuosities of the coast, put the Lynn Canal in American territory and gave to the United States Dyea, Skaguay and Porcupine Creek. The United States felt that it had a substantial case and could hold its claim.

Canada wanted to compromise and suggested its willingness to abandon its claim to Dyea and Skaguay if the United States would only permit it to have Pyramid Harbor, so that it could have a tidal entry to the Yukon region. The United States held that compromise was out of the question, as its boundary line was the correct one.

Canada, in its desire to get a port of entry, then offered to arbitrate. Arbitration would have meant, in the first place, an admission of the United States that there was a flaw in its contention, and, in the second place, would have led to a compromise, and the permanent boundary yet to be fixed would have been run somewhere between the Canadian and American lines. Thus Canada would have got what it wanted—a deep water harbor on the Lynn Canal.

To this Secretary Hay would not consent, believing that the claim of the United States admitted of no question, and as a matter of fact the last reply of the United States, presented to Great Britain by Ambassador Choate months ago, was so strong and convincing in support of the American contention that it has never been answered, and State Department officials believe that the boundary experts of Great Britain and Canada will not be able to answer it to their own benefit.

But in the meantime, while the United States was standing out for its territory, a portion of which Canada wanted to get by calling for arbitration of a question that was not possible of arbitrament, something had to be done to ease the tension at these southern gateways to the Klondike. No one would desire a fight between England and the United States over the Klondike gold diggings, and yet the embers of war were smouldering there.

Canadian claims, somewhat shifty and altered from time to time, were supported by all the public men of the Dominion, and were made in the hope of getting a deep water harbor, and the United States purposed holding the ground.

This government sent troops to Dyea and Skaguay. Canada had mounted police in both places. Canadian police were on the streets of Dyea and Skaguay daily and in one of the places Canada had a government office. It was a sort of no man's land, or, rather, a land with a dual government. Disputes were constantly arising. An armed conflict over the enforcement of law or the maintenance of order might arise at any hour.

Therefore, to remove the danger of conflict the modus vivendi was entered into. It provided for a line to be fixed by an officer of the United States Coast Survey and a Canadian astronomer at each of the points at which the disputed country could be entered. Thus, it was not a complete or continuous line from Yukon or Canadian territory on the east to United States territory on the west, but lines indicated by monuments at the White River Pass, the Chilkoot Pass and along the Kleheeni, or Klehini, River and Porcupine Creek, north of the Indian village of Klukwan, these lines only being drawn at places where access could be had into the country beyond. It was to be merely a temporary working boundary for the time being, so that each country should know where it could exercise its authority so long as the arrangement lasted.

In the drawing of this line Canada was put entirely off the Lynn Canal; driven away from Pyramid Harbor, from Dyea and Skaguay. The Indian town of Klukwan, which Canada claimed, was taken in as American territory. Instead of having a tidewater port of entry, Canada was deprived of even canal navigation into the Klondike.

When the extent of concessions made by Canada and the United States is compared, it is discovered that Canada has conceded more than one hundred miles and the United States not more than ten miles, and nothing that the United States has done has vitiated or weakened its claim, which is even now being pressed.

By following the maps which are here presented, a better understanding of the whole situation may be had, and it will be seen that the supposed yielding to Great Britain, which has filled a great many papers, has never existed in fact. It can be stated in perfect safety that there has been no cession of territory to Canada under the provisional boundary which has been laid out, and there is nothing to weaken the claim of the United States until a real boundary is established. The entire trouble seems to arise, as is the case of almost every boundary dispute, from the indefinite way in which the boundaries are first established



when the sources of information are few and the maps are crude. As the land becomes more valuable, the lines are more closely defined and a greater determination shown to acquire and hold property than when it is a supposed valueless territory considered inaccessible to settlers.

The attitude of Secretary Hay, who is now conducting the affair in the interests of the Americans, seems to be one of discretion and diplomatic tact mixed with firmness and an intention to hold strictly to his legal rights in the case.

IMPORTANT LETTER to the EDITOR.

DEAR EDITOR: If there are any men among your readers who are making less than $200.00 per month and who would like to investigate a clean, legitimate, no-fake opportunity to start in a splendid money-making business, where nothing is risked and very little cash is required, we wish such men would write to us. A number of our customers without any previous experience whatever, have gone into the great paying public entertainment business with exhibition outfits which we **furnish complete at $15.25 and upwards**, and now write us that they are making the **biggest kind of a success**, clearing from $50.00 to $200.00 every week. The business is new, the field is big and not crowded, the public interest in the wonderful talking machine, stereopticon and lecture outfits and the sensational moving pictures is greater than ever, and you have no idea how easy it is to give one or two entertainments every day and make big money.

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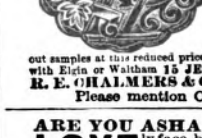


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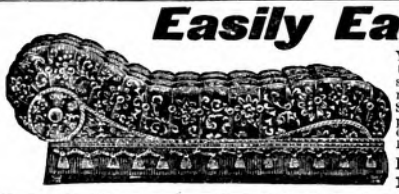
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THE WHITE HOUSE.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



The PRESIDENT'S house (officially, the Executive Mansion) is a mile and a half west of the capitol. It is two stories high, one hundred and seventy feet long, eighty-six feet deep and built of freestone. The cornerstone was laid in 1792, the edifice was first occupied by President John Adams in 1800, and the original building was burned by the British army in the summer of 1814; but Congress, in 1815, very promptly authorized its re-construction, by use of the same old walls. This was done, and the present edifice was first occupied in 1818. The original structure was not painted at all; but the new building, which retained the blackened walls left by the torch of the British army, was very unsightly; so, at the instance of General Andrew Jackson, it was painted white, not only to destroy the traces of fire and smoke, but also in defiance of that spirit of vandalism which had sought its destruction in a manner which received condemnation even in the public opinion of England; and it was from the patriotic sentiment of this circumstance, no less than from the color itself, that the Executive Mansion became so universally known among Americans as "the White House."

The Blue-Room is circular, or oval, in form; and, centrally located on the Potomac-side of the White House, it is the handsomest and the most historically interesting as well as the most useful room, perhaps, in the Mansion. It was through the south window of this room that the prostrate form of President Garfield was passed into the Mansion to avoid the immense crowd which gathered in front of it after the fatal shot had been fired. It was in this room that President Cleveland was made the liege-lord and master of the queen of American women. It was in this room that the Cleveland children were christened. It is in this room that the President stands to receive distinguished visitors from other lands; and it is in this room that the Secretary of State formally presents to the President all diplomatic representatives of foreign countries, when they tender their credentials and ask for the official recognition of their ministerial capacities. It takes its name from the distinctive color of its interior decorations, which is a delicate shade of blue. The wall-paper on the walls of this room is not paper at all, but a delicate shade of figured blue silk of the finest texture and quality; and the furniture is upholstered in silk of substantially the same shade and texture.

Of the English colonial type of architecture and always furnished in the same delicate shade, the Blue-Room retains its historic character through each administration; and, since the days of Mrs. John Adams, the first mistress of the White House, it has been the scene of the most interesting ceremonies in WhiteHouse history. The room itself has just been renovated and redecorated; but, while its decorative character was changed and the color-scheme made more harmonious than ever before, it was found possible to utilize many of the former decorations. The room is paneled; and the color-scheme was worked out in harmonious shades of blue, relieved by ivory-white with the slightest possible illumination of gold; while the decorations of the ceiling, which are in relief and composed of conventional scrolls, wreaths and stars, supported at both ends by the decorative escutcheon of the United States, were made to follow the oval shape of the room. So that the ceiling is now an interblend of a blue and grayish white, graduated and diminished toward the center from which depends a magnificent chandelier for electricity or gas, whose light is caught and reflected in countless scintillating prisms.

The cornice, with its egg-and-dart and other enrichments, is made to conceal a row of electric bulbs, which impart a transparent and atmospheric softness to the ceiling light; and the frieze, under the cornice, is in low relief, with an embossed underprint. The treatment of the mediums employed in this composition is, perhaps, unique in decorative art; for, without greatly taxing the imagination, it resembles a lace embroidery, appliqued on fabrics, combining relative shades.

The silk fabric of small patterns, on the walls, is used as a background for panels, at measured intervals around the room; and the frames of these panels are in ivory and gold, while the filling is of blue figured damask, animated and lustrous. Over each panel, is a bracket in Etruscan gold, whose branches carry electric bulbs—evenly distributing the light. The dado is also in low relief, and so treated as to represent a texture harmonious with the design and color-scheme of the room. The top of each panel is finished in two festoons of flowers, starting from a wreath and executed in relief.

The mirrors, resting upon a marble mantel and a gold consol-table, respectively, on opposite sides of the room, are of the English colonial type, with frames of ivory and burnished gold. They help to broaden the prospect and distribute the light evenly; while over the tops of the windows, which are hung with Brussels-lace and over-draperies in plain satin, trimmed with passementeries, are elaborately carved grills.

While the old furniture, which is of uncertain type with a leaning somewhat to the Louis XV period, has been regilded and recovered with the same damask that was formerly used in the panels of the walls, the new carpet, with its plain center and colonial border, adds materially to the tout ensemble of this beautiful room—the general effect of the combinations being such that it is doubtful whether the room has ever been so harmoniously decorated before. But the ornaments, which help to produce this general effect, must not be overlooked. They are neither numerous nor elaborate; but the most conspicuous among them are the four Sevres vases*, which have been presented to the United States by the French Government. Two of these became the property of the United States and formed a part of the permanent interior heirlooms of the White House so long ago that "the memory of man runneth not to the contrary." The oldest attache of the Mansion found them there when he was appointed by Abraham Lincoln in November, 1864; and the other two are the handsome new ones which have been recently installed.

These two old vases were unquestionably presented to the United States by the French Government. The fact is not only borne out by the tradition running with the vases themselves, but it has been verified repeatedly by the testimony of eminent Frenchmen who have been conducted, as visitors, through the Executive Mansion since 1864. These antique fellows are not so massive as the new ones are, nor are they so rich in simplicity of design, modesty of decoration and integrity of coloring; but they are much more intricate of conception, elaborate of execution and ornate of variety; and, doubtless, were regarded as masterpieces in their day and time. They are arranged upon either end of the table (at the west side of the room), upon which stands the pier-mirror, and they are both hand-painted: the one on the left (facing them) presents a group of several persons, in which Marie Antoinette, robed in white, is the central figure; and the one on the right presents a group of three persons, in which Charlotte Corday, robed in white, is the central figure. These paintings represent scenes from French history.

The two new vases, which have been placed permanently in the Blue Room also (one on each side of the large south window which opens upon a magnificent view of the historic Potomac below), far exceed in elegance anything in the way of porcelain ware ever before placed in the White House; and they are highly characteristic of the artistic taste of the French people. The vases and pedestals together stand about seventy-eight inches high; and the vases themselves which are about thirty-three inches in height, of a deep purple-blue—that famous "bleu de Sevres", with a mosaic of variegated gray tints breaking through the shell of coloring which is so characteristic and distinctive of this famous line of creations in the realm of art; while the pedestals are octagon in shape, white in color and gilded on the edges. They present a majestic appearance and are in happy harmony with the prevailing color of the room to which they are a rich acquisition.



FROM THE FRENCH REPUBLIC.

These magnificent specimens of French handiwork were a gracious gift from Felix Faure, late president of the French republic, to the American people (through William McKinley), in commemoration of the opening to public use of the new Franco-American cable (August 17, 1898) when Presidents McKinley and Faure exchanged over this new trans-Atlantic cable the first message between the White House and the Palace of the Elysees, on behalf of the two republics. In massiveness of proportion, dignity of pose, beauty of outline, perfection of finish and lavish richness of coloring, these two vases are exact reproductions, each of the other, with the exception of the inscriptions they bear, which are exactly the same in phraseology but different in language—that on the left vase, as they now stand, being in French, as follows:

FELIX FAURE
President de la Republique Francaise
A William MacKinley
President des Etats Unis D'Amerique

En memoire de l'inauguration
Du Nouveau Cable Franco-American
17 Aout 1898

And that on the right vase, as they now stand, being in English, as follows:

FELIX FAURE
President of the French Republic

*Probably, there is not a single royal palace in the whole of Europe, or in any other part of the civilized world, which does not possess one or more rare specimens of the rich products of this celebrated ceramic factory. And the Executive Mansion, in Washington, is not an exception to this general rule, as it contains a Sevres service set in addition to the four Sevres vases which have been presented to the Government of the United States by the Government of France.

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Whatever your disease, **one** or **more** of these four remedies will be of benefit to you.

According to the exigencies of your case, fully explained in the treatise given free with the free medicine, you may take **one,** or any **two,** or **three,** or **all four,** in combination.

Female troubles and the ailments of delicate children are speedily relieved.

The four together form a panoply of **strength** against disease in whatever shape it may attack you.

THE FREE OFFER

To obtain these four FREE invaluable preparations, illustrated above, all you have to do is to write, mentioning COMFORT, in which you read this article, to **DR. T. A. SLOCUM, Laboratories, 96 and 98 Pine Street, New York,** giving your name and full address. The **free medicine** will then be sent you, in the hope that if it does you good you will recommend it to your friends.

To William MacKinley
President of the United States of America.

In commemoration of the inauguration
of the new Franco-American Cable
August 17th 1898.

These inscriptions are engraved upon metallic plates which are attached to the bases of the vases; but the engraver must have been a Scotchman as McKinley is given the Scotch form of Mac.

The notable ceremony which attended the formal presentation of this rich acquisition to the interior decorations of the Executive Mansion took place in the Blue Room thereof, April 8, 1899, in the presence of the French Ambassador and the entire staff of the French Embassy, in Washington, on behalf of the French Government; and of the President, Secretary of State and some of the official staff of the White House, on behalf of the United States. It was made the happy occasion of felicitous exchanges of the international amity and good fellowship between the two greatest republics on earth—the Ambassador making the presentation speech, on behalf of the donors; and the President making the acceptance speech on behalf of the donees.

These two vases will remain in the White House permanently and form a part and parcel of the national souvenirs and curios, bric-a-brac, and notable decorations which have been presented, from time to time, by foreign governments. They belong to the nation and not to the President, personally; for, if they had been intended for the President, it would have required an act of Congress to enable him to accept them.

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OR SILVER anyone for selling 5 sets of our Pins for 25c. a set; (each pin set nickel) send your name & address & we will send you the pins post-paid. When sold, send us the money & we will send you the Bracelet. The chain is beautifully engraved & the lock opens with a dainty little key. We trust you & will take back all the pins you cannot sell. Write to-day. The MAXWELL CO. DEPT. 535 St. Louis, Mo

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Men, Women and Things.

CONDUCTED BY JENNIE MELVENE DAVIS.



Occasionally a man may be a Jack at all trades and a master of many. F. Hopkinson Smith seems to have obtained this versatile success, for he has won fame and money as an author, an artist, an engineer and a lecturer. One fellow-worker jestingly stated it: "No matter what you do, Hop Smith does it better." He has been the engineer of some of our best known lighthouses, his novels have been published serially in the leading magazines, he is a popular lecturer, and also one in demand at the great universities, and his pictures sell. Mr. Smith has known the bitterness of poverty and privation, and has walked the streets of New York in search of employment. He found employment in a business house, and his experience has been of practical use to him. It has enabled him to make a great financial success of each and every line of his work. To turn from planning a lighthouse on a dangerous reef to painting a picture, and then to writing novels full of life, action and color, seems to prove that all forms of expression are possible to a rapid thinker. Mr. Smith is particularly well known as an artist, through his pictures of Venice. For the past fourteen years he has spent the summer in Venice. He works out of doors and always finishes a painting in a day. He believes that this is the only way to catch the fleeting impressions of light and color. Personally Mr. Smith is a stout, jolly looking man with an air of genial success and good fellowship that suggest the club man rather than the feverish worker that he really is. He stands on the top rounds of all the ladders he has climbed, and is the wonder of each and every worker who has found it difficult enough to attain success in one line.

A great missionary conference was recently held in New York. One of the most conspicuous and interesting of the delegates was the Rev. C. T. Wilson, M. A., who came as a representative of the Church of England Missionary Society of London. He was born in South Australia, where his father who was a clergyman was working among the colonists. He was sent to England when a child to be educated, but after obtaining his degree the call came for him to go into the mission field. He was sent to Central Africa where he met with many thrilling adventures. Ultimately his companion was killed and Mr. Wilson was left alone in the heart of Africa. He remained there four years and returned to England with the envoys that the King of Unganda sent to the Queen. For three years he was vicar of a quiet little English church. Then came the longing to be sent again into the missionary field. He was gladly accepted and sent to Jerusalem. For the last fourteen years his labors have been largely among Mohammedans. His experience in the two widely contrasted fields made him a most interesting member of the Convention.

Ernest Seton-Thompson is a young man who is making a great reputation for himself as an exponent of the human side of animal life. He has a love for wild animals, every one of whose lives he says is a tragedy. He has written many books and short stories about animals and illustrated them. He has lectured much in New York and has done more than any other great naturalist to awaken a living interest in the "brothers of the forest." He has been in the service of the government of Manitoba and spends weeks and months in the wild land of the west and northwest. He does not make his animals talk like human beings as Kipling does, but he makes human beings for once see things from the animal point of view. His book covers are designed by his wife who is a beautiful woman with talent and sympathy for her husband's work.

The name of "Jennie June" has been familiar to the newspaper readers of forty years past. In 1855 Jennie June became a staff member of Noah's Sunday Times. "Jennie June" was but one of many pen names used by this pioneer newspaper woman. Margaret Maybel, Santanella, Veni Vidi and Evergreen were names often used during the first years of her work, but "Jennie June" appeared most frequently at the end of her contributions, and the other names were finally dropped altogether. The one name has become so widely known, both in England and America, that even her intimate friends think and speak of Mrs. Croly as Jennie June. Her seventieth birthday was recently celebrated, and those who looked at the guest of honor felt that she was really "seventy years young," as one of the speakers expressed it. Mrs. Croly was born in England and has returned to her native home during the summer. She expects to make her home in England for an indefinite period. Mrs. Croly is the originator of the "syndicate letter." Her articles and letters were at first published in five newspapers and this developed the idea of furnishing matter to be used in many papers at the same time. The "Woman's Page," as we know it in modern newspapers, was begun by Mrs Croly in a few columns called "Gossip with and for Ladies" and "Parlor and Sidewalk Gossip." The very titles indicate the change in the way woman is regarded now. Mrs. Croly was assistant editor and dramatic critic of Noah's Sunday Times for five years. For nine years she was on the staff of the New York Times, leaving this position to accept the editorship of the Weekly Illustrated News. This publication became a monthly magazine and Mrs. Croly was connected with it for twenty-seven years. It was an innovation for a woman to engage in journalistic work when 'Jennie June' first pleased the readers of this country. She has lived to see women of this country recognized as necessary elements in journalism. Mrs. Croly has been closely identified with the work of women's clubs. Her gentle face and manner are known to all the club women of the country. Herself a pioneer "New Woman," she has been a living rebuke to those who have made their new found freedom an excuse for aggressive or "mannish manners." "Jennie June" is distinctly feminine in manner. She speaks in a somewhat hesitating fashion, strangely in contrast with the keenness of the thought that prompts the utterance. In 1868, Mrs. Croly organized the first Woman's Club of this country. She called together a number of women interested in art, literature and kindred lines, and suggested the formation of a club. Sorosis was organized with Mrs. Croly as its first president. Mrs. Croly's last book is entitled, "The History of the Woman's Club Movement in America." This book must be read in order to appreciate the force and volume of the movement that has developed from that first club. The Woman's Press Club of New York was founded in 1889 by Mrs. Croly, and she has been the president since that time. The greatest lesson that woman can find in 'Jennie June's' life is in the unaffected simplicity and thorough honesty of a womanly woman. She has won success, she has advanced women, she has originated plans that have changed journalism and broadened the intellectual life of women, but she herself has always seemed the old-fashioned "lady" in the sense in which the word "lady" was used forty years ago. She believes in women even with the capital "W," but all that is ultra strenuous and crass in the evolution of the modern woman is far removed from the personality of 'Jennie June.'



J. Pierpont Morgan is probably the greatest financial power in the United States. It is not that his personal wealth exceeds that of other millionaires, but his business in themanipulation of money; he deals in money and to an unprecedented extent the opinion of this one man controls the financial outlook of this country. Of his personality but little has been known. He shuns publicity as far as he has time to shun anything and hammers relentlessly away at his financial schemes. He inherited a taste for finance from his father. The father was of old New England stock but his business affairs led him to London where in time the firm of J. S. Morgan and Co., became one of the best known and most influential of England's financial institutions. The son received a thorough scholastic education in the English High School of Boston and then in a German University. Through his father's influence young Morgan obtained a position in the Bank of England and in the greatest of all schools of finance he received a thorough learning. He gave years to all the details of desk work and the routine of office and when he was ready to leave he was easily the most thoroughly equipped young man in this greatest of financial centers. He came to New York and became cashier to Duncan, Sherman & Co. It was here that he acquired the reputation for marvelous discernment that has marked his career. His decisions as to the value of a security are instantaneous. His short, quick brusque replies show the hard business sense that has no thought except for the matter on hand. He is brutally frankly, honest, with no velvet over the hand of steel. He makes enemies until they find that his manner is not personal but that all alike are treated to short answers. He relies absolutely on his own opinion. It was while in the employ of "Sherman & Co." that Mr. Morgan began to show the great executive ability that has made him a Money King. Through many changes, Mr. Morgan finally rose to the head of the great firm of Drexel, Morgan & Co. He is constantly consulted by the Secretary of the Treasury in regard to the finances of the nation. It is said that Mr. Morgan frequently calls a meeting of the directors of the company to say "Gentlemen I have decided to do so and so" and then adjourns the meeting at once. It is his own absolute faith in himself that has gone far to make him the man he is. There is a lack of the average weaknesses of humanity about him that seems to put him out of reach. He is a generous man but in his own way and at his own time. It is the mighty force of a dominant personality that has made him proud and respected. He seems to the outside world to have a heart neither for love nor hate but only a keen, unerring brain. J. Pierpont Morgan is a name equal to that of Rothschild.



Sada Yacco is the talented Japanese actress who has been the greatest novelty of the theatrical season in New York. The company of Japanese players is headed by Madame Yacco's husband. He is an actor-manager and playwright. Madame Sada Yacco is regarded as a "New Woman" in Japan. She is the first Japanese actress to play in a theatrical company of men. In Japan the theater companies are exclusively masculine or feminine. Sada Yacco is of a noble and rich family of Tokays. She was educated at a girl's school where she spent four years in the study of Japanese literature and Chinese classics. She determined to become a geisha, as a woman who sings or dances at great entertainments is called in Japan. Her mother was so interested in the drama that she organized a company of women and in this way Sada Yacco received her first dramatic training. She married Mr. Kawakami who is considered the greatest Japanese actor. He has a theater in Tokay and produces Japanese versions of many of our greatest plays including those of Shakespeare. Madame Yacco made a great departure from Japanese tradition when she joined her husband's company. She is amazed and delighted at the freedom enjoyed by the women of this country. She says "I shall never forget how the American women are cherished by the men and when I return to Japan I hope to have at least a little influence in making my countrywomen a more important factor in the life of the nation." An interpreter steps before the curtain and explains the story of the play. In this way the audience are able to follow the work. Madame Yacco is said to be the most beautiful woman of her country. She is short but her hands and feet are not as abnormally small as those of her countrywomen in general. Her features are regular but her eyes are hardly as oblique as the majority of Japanese. Her acting is strong and forceful. Madame Yacco is particularly struck with the power of expressing emotion that is shown in our music and intends to introduce it in her husband's theater in Japan instead of the monotonous Japanese music.

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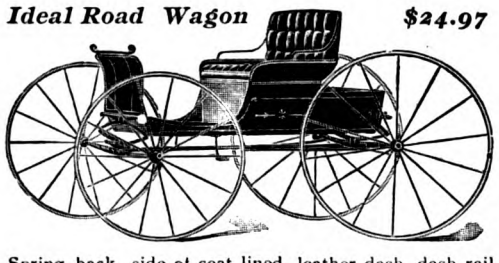


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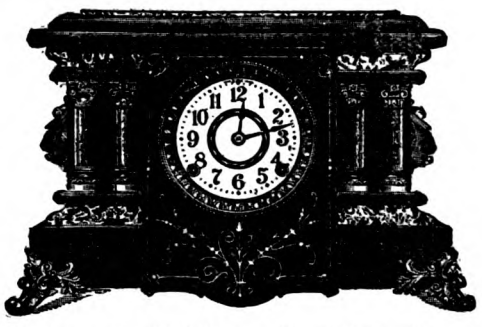
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The Fungus Growth of Trees.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



BOOKS have been written upon the mushroom growth from the earth, edible and non-edible, while the mushroom growth upon the decaying wood with its beautiful fan shaped forms remain practically unnoticed. These parasite growths have a mission as well as the edible mushroom. Their under surface in quality and texture resembles white velvet, while the upper surface which we call the back of the mushroom, is always brown and with distinct waves. It is comparatively tough and hard, and will support quite a weight. Thus nature protects these parasite growths from being injured by the cony that may run over them, or the partridge that inhabits the wild woods with her young.

These fan shaped formations have a very creamy and sensitive under surface, covered with a net work of pores, and when these pores are manipulated they bleed, that is, the steel starts sap which lies within the second layer, which is always of a brown color, and this pigment of nature flows upon the face of nature's canvass, producing a picture resembling sepia. The white, creamy surface forms a back ground. One must use great care in making the drawing. If the steel makes a false mark, no power can correct it. The first stroke must be right, or your sketch is spoiled. If you intended to make a straight line, and the hand trembled, producing a zigzag, it must remain crooked.

If the mushroom has cork within its surface, one must use the steel with great care; it requires a practiced hand to keep the values.

The little bit of nature that heads the column, was found upon a fallen log by the road side. When one finds a reliable mushroom, the first consideration, is what can fit into the length and breadth the best, that is, what sketch of nature, for nothing but a landscape is in harmony with the fungi. The home of Burns appealed to the engraver, as he is called nature's poet. She dedicated this little bit of nature to Scotia's bard, who sang of "the mountain and daisy" and "Rank is but the guinea's stamp; a man's a man for a' that." Who has not shed a tear over his blighted, saddened life!

Upon a double formation I fitted in "the Profile of the Old Man of the Mountain," Franconia notch. In the rear mushroom, the scene represents Winnepesaugee Lake, New Hampshire. This lovely cryptogam grew upon a large yellow birch stump, which once supported a lordly tree. This shattered stump from year to year throws out these puzzles of nature, which are fed by a mountain brook. (Mt. Monadnock.) While they are forming in shape and beauty, silently, steadily, drinking in oxygen like the animal life, this mountain brook, as it chatters over the rounded pebbles, fills the air with the music of "Men may come and men may go, but I go on forever." This growth of fungi has many phases. When we have found one perfect in anatomy, we have found a prize, for it can never be duplicated. Nature never repeats itself. The commonest things of earth confound the wise.

A regal mushroom was found in a valley of fallen trees near the home of "Joshua Whitcomb." As you look down from the Sullivan hills of New Hampshire, you will see the summer home of the renowned Swanzy actor, whose kindness among his home family has won respect from all his personal friends. "The Whittier oak," upon one specimen, stands near Center Harbor, New Hampshire. This town was one of the summer homes of the Quaker poet. One can see his favorite tree as they sail up the Winnepesaugee Lake and can imagine this gifted writer sitting under the waving branches



OLD MAN OF THE MOUNTAIN.

of this regal oak, (fit for a Kousseau to paint) writing pathetically of the tribe who once inhabited these shores, and launched their birch canoes into the wonderful Killarney of America. No one with keen perception can look upon the decaying wood and not say, "How tenacious of life." There is a divinity within these fan-shaped formations. They are not lifeless. One cannot see the beauty and character of the dead wood without a glass. All up and down a fallen stump, the parasite growth is wonderfully beautiful.

The fan-shaped formations I call the Royalists; those in rosette form with their binding of brown and light green I call the butler, and housekeeper, of the Royalists; and the cup-like in shape, pert and erect, with a bind of brown, and a ring of creamy white I call the cup bearers, and minor servants, of the household; then there is a formation with a brown cap; a stem supports the velvet cap which is soft and plastic like the cap—these we will call the errand boys. After studying these wonderful growths, one can never be lonely in a pathless-woods, and a child whose attention is called to the worthless formations will never kick them about, but on the contrary will gather them in their baskets and wonder if the good God who made them also made these *daintinesses of Nature!* And the farmer who has noticed these toadstools, as he calls them, will find a double charm when he comes to a realization that within these growths there is a storehouse of sap, which, if rightly used, will make a picture that will allure and fascinate the most fastidious of artists.

The farmer's wife is always ready to take a walk, (after the daily drudgery is finished), or a drive with old Ned through the forest road. With those common people (as the world calls them) I rode miles and miles, never fearing tramps, for old dog Tray is ever faithful; I always feel secure, for I manage if possible to have one of these dogs for a companion. The farmers' wives have a strong hand and can manage a refractory horse with perfect ease. I love these people with their bright happy children, and I find wherever I go they remember me, and are watching some fallen log or shattered stump for my benefit. From their observation I have been able to learn many facts as regards the fungus growth of trees. And I would advise young and old to cultivate a love for the common things of nature for they have a tendency to make life more attractive, and they also teach us there is a divinity, the germ of an angel in every human soul however depraved. For we are His children and the sheep of His pasture. Nature was made for our benefit and no wayside flower, or flowers in deep ravines out of sight of human eyes were made in vain. There is an invisible intelligence that enjoys them.

I would say to my readers; do not expect great results, that is do not expect to reproduce perfect pictures at once. You may have to try several times before your work is presentable; no matter if you do spoil several formations, there are other growths to be found for the forests are full of old stumps of trees and fallen logs. Dentists' tools are nice to use and they can readily be obtained. They are exceedingly nice in outlining a picture. I had a set given me when I started out; a dentist had used them, producing groans and pains almost unendurable upon the human family. Yet they proved very useful in working out very beautiful and dainty pictures, from the mushrooms that have been the delight of many homes, for these pictures are Nature's pictures; there is no paint used except that which is worked up from the second layer of the finger which bears a strong resemblance to sepia. Notwithstanding they are pictures produced from nature, people will persist in calling them sepia paintings. Gather a mushroom which has sap within its growth, take a pointed steel and commence your drawing of the picture you wish to reproduce, just as you would work out a picture on paper with a pencil. One can see what can be done the moment they strike the steel into the formation. I have endeavored to make my description of the work explicit and would say in closing, if at once you don't succeed, try, try again. Remembering the prayer of the little girl who prayed to God, that "if at first you don't succeed to make me a dood little girl dear, Good Dod, why please try, try again."



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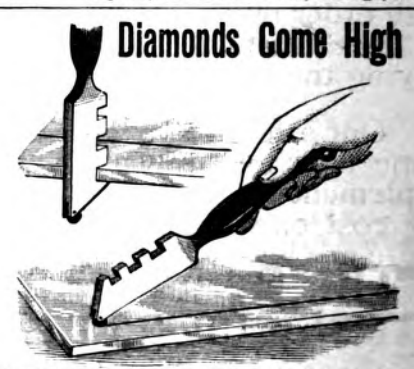
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The art of shelling and salting peanuts has just reached perfection. As a **confection** they are peerless, **as a food unequaled.** German scientists have spent years experimenting with Peanut flour. It is found to contain **three times the nutriment of wheat;** and whole salted peanuts, being so much more palatable than wheat, have also been found with a slight addition of **Pepsin Salt** to be a sure **cure for Dyspepsia** and other stomach, kidney and liver troubles. Yes, even persons with **Bright's Disease** or Diabetes can now be cured. It is only necessary for old or young to eat a few of our **Pepsin Salted Peanuts** after meals to keep in perfect health—but they can also be **eaten in any quantity as a confection** without the least distress or trouble to the weakest stomach. Children delight to feast on them and they are much better than candy. They also cure Heart Burn and Insomnia.

To Form Part of the **Treat or Refreshments** at party gatherings, sociables, etc., they are indispensable, and to have them on the table as dessert is the best of form. Everyone, both old and young, now wants a few in the pocket at all times to nibble on—for with all the troublesome oils properly treated as they are in our **special process** of Curing and Roasting Peanuts, they have at last lost all terrors to weak stomachs, and are warranted not to become rancid, and to keep well in any climate.

FREE We will send two thousand packages of these Pepsin Salted Peanuts out to responsible parties who furnish proper references. You sell 12 ten-cent packages **and get a watch,** a guaranteed good timekeeper. But to first introduce them quickly we send **one package as a sample free to any one enclosing six cents** for a three months' subscription to COMFORT. You can then test them and see how many packages you want to start with. *No attention paid to first orders without trial 6c subscription.* Write at once and be among the first to get the free packages. **FREE**

Address, COMFORT FOOD DEP'T 1, Augusta, Maine.

$2000 IN CASH FREE!

Last January, February, and March it will be remembered we advertised what was at that time considered one of the biggest contests ever published. The first prize was nothing more nor less than $5 a week for life, or an annuity of $250 a year in advance. Mr. A. W. Madden of Phillipsburg, N. J., was declared the winner, and as Mr. Madden preferred the annuity of $250 a year in advance, a certified check for the said amount was promptly forwarded to him. Just stop and think for a moment what a grand prize this was. It meant that as long as Mr. Madden lived he would receive from us every year on the first day of May $250 in cash. As Mr. Madden is only 27 years old he has a good many years before him in which to enjoy his good fortune.

L	A	R	O
M	A	I	Y
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I	S	N	K

Now if you were so foolish as to ignore our previous advertisement, we certainly would advise you not to overlook this one, for without a doubt this is the opportunity of your life, for you not only have a chance to win an income of **$300 a year for life,** but also to win a large amount of ready cash. **We want you to read this over very carefully** for **it does not cost you one cent.** One of these contests is, we believe, a very hard one, in fact, so hard that it cannot be solved in a minute, nor an hour, but is going to tax your brains and take considerable of your time. However, do not give it up, for it can be solved, and just think of the reward. **We will give $2,000 in cash for the correct answer.** In the block square to the left we have printed 16 jumbled letters which we want you to try and arrange. These jumbled letters when properly arranged will spell the names of three large cities in the world. One city being located in the United States, one in South America and one in Europe. In making the names of these three cities the letters can only be used as many times as they appear, and no letter can be used which does not appear. When you have found the three correct names you will have used every letter in the sixteen as many times as it appears. If you cannot find the three correct names but find only two you will receive a special prize worth $1. Remember if you find only two correct names you will have the same chance to win the income for life or one of the big cash prizes mentioned in the second half of this advertisement. **If you send in your answer at once we are quite sure you will not be disappointed.** Some one is going to win the money and it may be you. **Anyway, it does not cost you any money** to try and if you are a successful contestant there is only one easy condition, which will take less than half an hour of your time, and which we will write you as soon as your answer is received. This, we can truthfully say, is the very hardest puzzle ever advertised, so get out your geography, atlas or encyclopedia and look for these three cities. The correct names are known only to the president of this company and his private secretary. The envelope containing the three names has been sealed and deposited with a leading Safe Deposit Co. in Boston and will not be opened until the day after the contest closes. This, we believe is the only honest way of conducting a contest, as everyone will have an equal chance. In the event of more than one correct answer being received, we will request five parties who have answered this advertisement to act as a committee to award the cash pro rata. They will be invited to come to Boston at our expense and be our guests while in this city. We take this unusual method of selecting a committee to show our good faith as we want to treat all in the fairest manner possible. The committee will be selected from among the contestants ten days before the contest closes, and you may be asked but not compelled to act as one of the committee. In addition to the **Two Thousand Dollars in Cash** we will give you an opportunity to **win**

$300 A YEAR FOR LIFE FREE.

9 CASH PRIZES OF $250 EACH FREE. 58 CASH PRIZES OF $25 EACH FREE.

WITHOUT LABOR OR EXPENSE.

We are going to give to some one who has entered this contest and who complies with the conditions as stated above, an apportunity to **win** and secure from us without any labor or expense on their part, **Three Hundred Dollars** every year during their natural life. **We mean just what we say. If you are the lucky one, and we hope you are, for some one will get it, we will send the winner every year during their natural life $300 cash in advance.** Now, in addition to the cash prizes already mentioned we are going to give away **nine cash prizes of $250** each and **fifty-eight cash prizes of $25** in the following manner: We will give $250 to one party residing in the New England States which consist of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut. **$250** to one party residing in the Middle States which consist of New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, and District of Columbia. **$250** to one party residing in the Central States which consist of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan and Wisconsin. **$250** to one party residing in the Western States which consist of Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, and North and South Dakota. **$250** to one party residing in the Southern States which consist of Virginia, West Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Florida, Mississippi, Tennessee and Kentucky. **$250** to one party residing in the Southwestern States which consist of Louisiana, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Texas, New Mexico and Arizona. **$250** to one party residing in the Rocky Mountain States which consist of Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, Idaho and Utah. **$250** to one party residing in the Pacific Coast States which consist of California, Nevada, Oregon and Washington, and **$250** to one party residing in the Dominion of Canada, and that is not all, for we will give to one party residing in each State and territory in the United States and in each province of the Dominion of Canada a cash prize of **$25.** We mean just what we say. You have an opportunity to win and secure from us, without any labor or one cent of expense on your part, any of the above named prizes. There is positively no deception, and as for trickery, how can there be, when the committee is selected from the contestants, and you yourself might be chosen to decide who the winners are.

Do not throw this contest aside and say, Oh, pshaw! I have answered puzzles before and never got anything; for if you do you will regret it as long as you live. Some one is going to win the money, and it may be you, no one can tell. Anyway, **it does not cost you one cent** as we do not want any money from you. Are the prizes worth trying for? We think they are, for $300 a year paid to you for life will keep one from the poor-house and to those who have a small income it will supply them with many a necessity which one has to do without in these hard times. Do you know of any firm in the world that has made such liberal offers in such a fair manner? Of course we are strangers to you, and you have no assurance except our word that we are financially able to carry out the promise we make. If you have the least doubt, we would be pleased to have you get a special report from either Bradstreet's or Dun's Mercantile Agency, or our bankers. We are a responsible company with a paid-up capital of **One Hundred Thousand Dollars,** composed of well-known business men, and our sole object in giving away such large cash prizes is to advertise our business and we will leave no stone unturned to accomplish, by honest methods only, our object. Everyone entering this contest will receive honest treatment, and you will have the same chance whether you live in California, Mexico, Canada or Massachusetts — distance makes no difference. When you have carefully arranged the jumbled letters into the three names which you think are right, send your answer to us at once and enclose a stamp for reply. Within a few days you will receive an answer telling you whether you are a successful contestant, and we will also send you full particulars regarding our other contest whereby you can win for one moment's thought, without any labor or expense, either $300 a year for life or a large cash prize. Do not delay, as this advertisement may never appear in this publication again. Address us this way:

The Bernard-Richards Co., Ltd., 25 Wharf and Broad Streets, Boston, Mass.

The New American Ambassador to Italy.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



THOSE who have been so fortunate as to know the new American ambassador to Italy, Hon. Roger Wolcott, and his wife, Mrs. Edith Prescott Wolcott, know that they will represent the United States at Rome with a degree of dignity, grace and discretion which will never have been surpassed by any representatives of this country abroad.

It was my privilege to meet Ambassador Wolcott frequently, while he was governor of Massachusetts, and the more I saw of him the more I admired and respected him, both as a man and as a public official.

Roger Wolcott was born in Boston, in 1847. He had an ancestor by the same name who was second in command in the expedition which Sir William Pepperell made against Cape Breton in 1745, which resulted in the capture of Louisburg. Another ancestor, Oliver Wolcott, was a signer of the Declaration of Independence, and fought in the Revolutionary army against Burgoyne. Both of these men became governors of Connecticut.

Mr. Wolcott graduated from Harvard College in 1870. His standing in his classes was high, and he was the choice for class orator. After graduation he worked as a tutor at Harvard for two years, at the same time taking the course in the Harvard Law School. He was admitted to the Suffolk bar in 1874.

Mr. Wolcott's public career began as a member of the Boston Common Council, where he served three years. He was then elected to the Legislature, where he also served three years. From the very first he evinced qualities which made him a leader in whatever political field he entered. He was elected lieutenant governor, when Greenhalge was governor, and re-elected. When Governor Greenhalge died in office, Mr. Wolcott succeeded him for the unexpired term of office, and was then elected governor for two more terms. He is an easy, practiced public speaker.

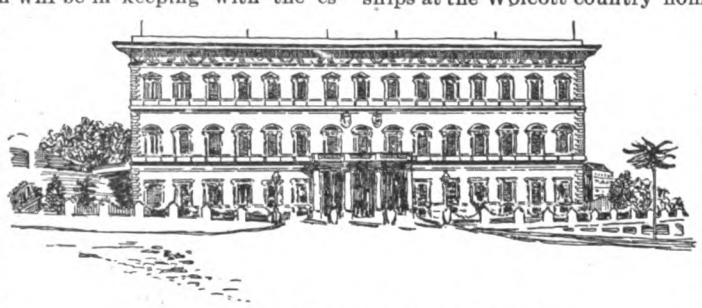
The following description of the new ambassador's personal appearance is quoted from one of the Boston daily papers: "Governor Wolcott is tall and gracefully proportioned, his height being over six feet. His head is small and elegantly poised, and his features are classical and refined. His hair is prematurely silvered, but his clear, wholesome complexion makes him look much less than his real age, in spite of his hair. Dignified and polite at all times Mr. Wolcott can assume an air of force, but it is the force of decision and not of sternness. What commends Mr. Wolcott to the public is not alone his oratory, but also the knowledge, which everybody possesses, that his character is unblemished and his aims high."

I happen to know that the frequent references in print to Governor Wolcott's personal appearance were extremely annoying to him. Over and over again he intimated this to the newspaper men, and would have done so more emphatically than he did if his modesty had not made any reference to the matter so repugnant to him. It was only the fact that he realized that as a public official he belonged, in a measure, to the people, which made him tolerate it at all. So far as the newspaper men are concerned, Governor Wolcott had such a striking presence and such a delightful personality that they simply could not help expressing their admiration for him.

I shall always remember one time in particular when I saw him. It was at a great dinner which had been given to the Secretary of the United States Treasury and a company of distinguished congressmen. The lofty apartment in which the tables were spread was the most perfectly appointed banquet hall in Boston, and palms and flowers added to the beauty of the furnishings.

The governor's chair was placed so that when he rose to welcome the guests from Washington to Boston, he stood before a lofty window whose draperies of rich dark red velvet had been drawn together in loose folds which swept from the ceiling to the floor. His picture, as he stood there for a moment, waiting for the room to become quiet, will always be painted on my mind. It was a picture in which to the beauty and grace of some aristocratic ancestral portrait there had been added the simple dignity of an honest American man.

The Wolcotts are fortunate in having sufficient wealth so that, like Ambassador and Mrs. Draper, who preceded them to Rome, they can maintain the American embassy in that city in a style which will be in keeping with the establishments of the other diplomats there, a style which demands an expenditure of money far in excess of the salary which the United States allows its ambassadors. They will occupy the same beautiful palace which Mr. and Mrs. Draper occupied.



RESIDENCE OF U. S. AMBASSADOR TO ITALY.

So much of the success of an embassy in a city like Rome depends upon its social functions, that the aid which the ambassador's wife can afford him is very great. Mrs. Draper was a beautiful woman, noted for grace and tact. Mrs. Wolcott will be her worthy successor.

Mrs. Wolcott was Miss Edith Prescott, a granddaughter of Colonel William Prescott who commanded at the battle of Bunker Hill. It is hard for any one who sees Mrs. Wolcott to believe that she was married so long ago as in



OFFICE OF AMERICAN EMBASSY IN ROME.

1874, and that she has five children, the eldest a son who graduated from Harvard several years ago.

Just as I have one recollection of Governor Wolcott which is particularly attractive to me, I have one of his wife also. For a great deal of the time while her husband was Governor of Massachusetts, Mrs. Wolcott was in mourning for her father, and on this account went little into society, but one fall when the White Squadron was in Boston Harbor I remember the Wolcotts gave a reception to the officers of the various ships at the Wolcott country home, in Milton. A great many distinguished guests were present, among them I remember, being Thomas Bailey Aldrich, the writer.

The Wolcott home in Milton has long been famous among the country homes around Boston, both for the great size of the estate, two hundred acres or more, and for the beauty of the location. The company on this occasion was an unusually brilliant one to look at, because, in addition to the beautiful gowns which the women wore, the naval officers and the members of the Governor's Staff who were present were all in full dress uniform, and the gorgeous display of gold braids and lacings which the uniforms afforded added a note of richness to the coloring which American social functions do not often have.

Mrs. Wolcott is a woman in whose face there is added to the beauty of feature that charm which comes from true kindliness of heart. She is rather above medium height, and of unusually graceful carriage. On the evening of the reception to the officers of the squadron she met her guests standing beneath an arch between the great hall and the drawing-room. She wore a gown of heavy black silk, made severely plain except for soft folds of black *chiffon* on the shoulders and about the low cut bodice. Fastened at one side was a huge cluster of purple violets in a setting of their own soft green leaves. Around her neck was a long rope of superb pearls. I thought then, and I have thought ever since, that she was the most beautiful woman I have ever seen.



IF people knew what an easy task it is to clean portraits they would never allow them to continue in the condition in which so many oil paintings are seen on the walls of houses.

First take the picture from its frame and lay it upon a table, face upwards. Peel a large potato and cut it in halves; then wet a sponge in warm water and go carefully over the entire surface of the picture, being careful, however, if there are any cracks in the surface, not to let any water get into it. Then take the potato, and with the smooth side go over the surface while it is wet; do not rub hard, but rub evenly and firmly until there is a sort of lather all over the surface; the dirt will soon begin to soften and the dirt will disappear, when it should be carefully washed with fresh tepid water.

Sometimes the dirt has been varnished over, when of course it cannot be reached and removed in this way. In a case of this kind, take a heavy blanket, double it twice and sprinkle freely with alcohol; then turn the picture, face downward, over it; of course the picture is still in its frame, for this treatment. The fumes of the alcohol will soon begin to rise and loosen the dirt; the picture should be kept over the alcohol until the spots have disappeared from the surface. It should then be sponged with tepid water and placed where it will dry slowly. Never use soap on an oil painting. After a picture has been cleaned it should be varnished with picture varnish, with a bristle brush.



A CURIOUS wedding took place recently in the West, in one of the rich German families. During the first part of the ceremony the bride stood in a ring made by the bridesmaids, who held in their hands a rope of flowers. When the time came for the putting on of the wedding ring, the bride broke through the flower rope and joined the bridegroom, this being an old custom in the country parts of Germany, and typifies the leaving of girlhood behind.

COMFORT

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COMFORT was started and its subscription price fixed on the basis of an 8 page paper it has been voluntarily enlarged to 12, 16 and 24 pages. When more than 12 pages are now given the subscriber can consider it a gift from the publisher.

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Guaranteed Circulation:

ONE MILLION TWO HUNDRED AND FIFTY THOUSAND COPIES, Each and Every Issue,

Or Exceeding 15 Millions A Year.

What will be the effect of the recent Chinese uprising and Missionary work in China, is a question that many are now eagerly asking.

In spite of this being the year of our Presidential election there is every indication of a great fall business. People have learned that it is possible to save the country without neglecting their business affairs.

"If War and rumors of War" must immediately precede the Millennium, surely that period of blissful serenity must be at hand. Never within the memory of men and women now living were there so many wars in progress and wars in prospect.

The withering hand of the Census taker has again been laid on many prosperous and populous cities and towns. It is amazing how a place grows in the estimation of the people after the census has been taken and how it falls behind when the next count is made. You can get consolation from the fact that the rival town suffered in just the same way.

No greater change has taken place in the last decade than in the manner of country living. There has been a steady outpouring of wealthy city people towards the country. Summer homes have sprung up all over the land. The best ideas in architecture, sanitation and comfort have been a perpetual object lesson for the entire sections in which they stand. The farmhouses built to-day do not have the barns placed directly across the road shutting out all view of hill, meadow and woodland. The idea has spread that living may be easier if a little beauty is added to the old idea of utility. There is no more independent life in the world than that of a farmer. With the ordinary comforts and conveniences incident to city life made use of as far as possible in a country home, the ideal way of living would be attained. The recent plans to extend the delivery of mail to rural districts brings one more convenience of town life to the country.

Wolves are supposed to belong to the pioneer stage of civilization in a country. Our preconcieved ideas on this topic demand revision when we read the last report of the French Ministry of Agriculture. During the past year, 207 wolves were killed in France and 13,000 francs were paid in bounties. Not one of the wolves were found in the mountainous districts near the Alps and Pyrenees but the larger number was found in the central department of France. Since 1882, 8866 wolves have been destroyed in France. Once during the last twelve years and but once has a wolf been known to attack a person. The rapid extinction of wild animals in our own country seems unprecedented when we read such a report from as old a country as France and one whose area is so small compared to ours. With us the most stringent laws hardly avail to protect the game animals, many of which, like the buffalo, are practically extinct. Animals harmful to man have been pursued until the killing of a wolf, bear or panther is startling news.

There is no doubt that the American people enjoy the hustling and howling and hurrying of political campaign. Even those who can not hope to win seem to enter the contest with spirit and enthusiasm for the mere joy of the working. The Prohibition party polled a smaller vote in the last Presidential election than it had drawn in many years. It still holds in its ranks thousands of earnest adherents who believe that a vote for conscience's sake is never lost even though they have no hope of electing their candidate. This month a Prohibition campaign train will start on a tour of the country from Maine to California. All the train hands from conductor to brakeman are sworn to "touch not, taste not, handle not" any intoxicating drink. A male quartette will furnish music. The train will be elaborately decorated with prohibition mottoes and the emblem of the party—an inverted army canteen—will be conspicuously displayed. The Prohibition candidate for President and Vice President will make speeches from the rear platform at every place where the train halts. Every town that can raise $100 will be visited.

We are engaged as a people in the work of a Presidential campaign and in a way that a foreigner would find it hard to comprehend. Reading our constitution he would learn that each state selects a given number of competent citizens every four years to elect a President of the United States. He would further learn that these citizens so selected and called electors are to meet at the various state capitals where each will cast his vote for some statesman for President of the United States and for another statesman for Vice President. These votes so cast by the electors of each state are sealed and transmitted to Washington by private messengers and are delivered to the President of the Senate by whom they must be opened and read in the session of the Senate and that the person having a majority of the votes cast for President shall be declared duly elected to fill that office, and the one having received a majority of votes for Vice President shall in like manner be declared duly elected to the office of Vice President of the United States. He would not find a word in our constitution about a Presidential election by the people and naturally he would wonder what all this rumpus is about.

The women aren't saying anything. They are just indulging in a little quiet comfortable retrospection over the trials and triumphs the shirtwaist man has lived through during the past summer. They have watched his troubled progress through the camps and courts and schools. With an amused yet sympathetic interest they have seen him turned out of the restaurants where he was erstwhile monarch of all he surveyed. They have seen the street gamin follow in his wake and comment upon his appearance in the terse yet picturesque English which the genus usually reserves for female victims. They have read the curt assertions of the young man who claims in an aggressive manner that he is the real and only first reformer of the garb of down trodden man. This original reformer modestly allows that Winston Churchill introduced the shirtwaist in England but the reformer asserts with circumstantial detail that he wore the first shirtwaist of America upon the boardwalk in Atlantic City in May. Inscribe it upon his tombstone and after time shall have mellowed the deed let the American people claim for him a place in the Hall of Fame and write his name upon the tablet with other American philanthropists. When the legislatures of our sovereign commonwealths shall convene we may see them rest from their mighty struggles for legislation on the hat pin, the theater hat, the Mother Hubbard and the short skirt, and determine by statute the legal right of the shirtwaist man.

Poor old Shakespeare never would have said "What's in a name?" if he could have glanced down the list that America furnishes. The unearned and unasked cognomens that some unfortunates have to drag through life are just occasions for both tears and temper. The Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals might wisely expend some of its revenue on a series of tracts to parents and parents by proxy who burden children with names that would disgrace a tombstone. It is not necessary to prove the truth of this assertion by illustration of the names bestowed upon helpless infants by mature persons who bestow absurd names from a mistaken sense of humor, or long drawn out ancient ones from a Chinese-like worship of ancestors. When we consider the infinite labor and endless discussion necessary in order to name even a small family, we can slightly appreciate the task of those in charge of the great public institutions where the waifs of a great city, nameless and homeless, are gathered. During the recent summer either humor or helplessness bestowed some ridiculously significant names upon the waifs of New York. A little pickaninny who claimed the city's hospitality upon one hot day, must tread the weary path of life with the name of Virginia Broiler. Joseph July and Susan Sweat received a local habitation and a name during the same hot spell, but Rebecca Wet succeeded in finding a change in the weather. The Commissioner of Charities by this time began to "take notice" and the frivolous sponsors were directed to use the city directory for future supply of names. "What's in a name"—indeed.

We American people are plain people and our constitution forbids the granting of any title of nobility. But human nature is much the same the world over whether it be under a monarch or a republic. We can't help feeling that a handle or a tail on a name distinguishes its owner from the common herd. Captains, Majors, Colonels and even Generals are not all required to show their commissions. What man who has served a term in his state legislature ever after omits the "Hon?" Judges are not quite so plentiful but they are with us by courtesy and by right. There is one man though who feels that he is moved by no sense of foolish pride but by a solid and sober appreciation of his position in the community—that is the man who always adds an "Esq." to his name. No vain military flourish or political pomp and vanity for him. Esquire! Now all unconsciously the "esquire" man is the chief sinner of the title grabbing mob. Esquire is an old English title which a very few Englishmen are lawfully entitled to bear. It was granted by letters patent from the crown. It is not possible for any American to use the term correctly or legally. Poor John Smith Esq. He might be an American judge or colonel or honorable but never an esquire. We are reminded of the French courtiers who thoughtlessly used the expression "The late king" in reference to the defunct ruler of Spain. "What is that?" sharply demanded his majesty of France in whose presence death was a forbidden word. "Oh, only a title the kings of Spain assume" said the quick witted nobles. How many titles the uncrowned kings of Yankeeland assume!

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No.	PIANO OR ORGAN.	
165	American Liberty March	Cook
101	Ancients Abroad, March—Two Step	Cook
247	Artist's Life Waltzes	Strauss
181	Auld Lang Syne. Variations	Durkee
187	Austrian Song. Op. 69, 1	Pacher
215	Battle of Waterloo. Descriptive	Anderson
179	Beauties of Paradise Waltz. 4 hands	Strakbog
227	Beautiful Blue Danube Waltzes	Strauss
65	Bells of Corneville. Potpourri	Elson
213	Black Hawk Waltzes	Walsh
257	Blue Bells of Scotland. Trans.	Richards
221	Bluebird Echo Polka	Morrison
199	Boston Commandery March	Carter
109	Bridal March from Lohengrin	Wagner
229	Bryan and Sewall March	Noles
133	Cadences and Scales in all Keys	Czerny
1	Catherine Waltzes	Stroh
255	Cavaleria Rusticana. Four hands.	Mascagni
237	Cherokee Roses Waltz. 4 hands.	Behr
145	Clayton (Adjutant) March—Two Step	Missud
217	Cleveland's March	Noles
81	Coming from the Races Galop	Wheeler
269	Coppelia. Valse Lente	Delibes
211	Corn Flower Waltzes	Coote, Jr
41	Crack Four March	Ashton
71	Crystal Dew Waltz	Durkee
235	Day Dawn Polka	Cook
163	Dewey's Grand Triumphal March	Marcel
117	Echoing Trumpets March	Noles
121	Electric Light Galop	Durkee
91	Estella, Air de Ballet. Very fine.	Robinson
107	Ethel Polka	Simons
155	Evergreen Waltz	Stoddard
241	Fantastic Schottische	Gabriel
231	Faust. Selections	Durkee
77	Fifth Nocturne	Leybach
233	Flirting in the Starlight. Waltz	Lasalde
239	Flower Song. Op. 39.	Lange
97	Fresh Life	Spindler
177	Frolic of the Frogs.	Watson
49	Full of Ginger. March Galop.	Nutting
183	Golden Rain. Nocturne	Clay
147	Grand Commandery March—Two Step	Missud
53	Greeting of Spring, op. 21	Schultze
185	Her Bright Smile Haunts Me Still	Richards
173	Hobson of the Merrimac Waltzes	Jewell
139	Home, Sweet Home. Transcription	Slack
17	Impassioned Dream Waltzes	Rosas
153	Jenny Lind polka. Four hands	Muller
157	Last Hope. Meditation	Gottschalk
195	Leap Year Schottische	Kerr
253	Le Petit Bal. Polka Mazurka.	Behr
159	Lee's (Gen'l) "On to Cuba" galop	Durree
249	Lohengrin. Selections	Durree
141	London March—Two Step	Missud
243	Love's Dreamland Waltzes	Roeder
99	Maiden's Prayer, The	Badarzewska
45	March Winds Galop	Mansfield
240	Martha Selections	Johnson
207	May Breezes. Four hands	Krug
263	May Day Schottische	Keefer
225	McKinley and Hobart March	Turner
55	Memorial Day March	Hewitt
131	Monastery Bells. Nocturne	Wely
89	Morning Dew, op. 18	Smith
61	Morning Star Waltz	Zahn
201	Music Box, The. Caprice	Liebich
137	My Love Polka	Zichrer
125	My Old Kentucky Home Variations	Cook
87	National Anthems of Eight Great Nations	
175	National Songs of America	Blake
135	Nightingale's Trill, op. 8	Kullak
123	Old Folks at Home. Transcription	Blake
171	Old Oaken Bucket, The. Variations	Durkee
219	On the Wave Waltz	Dinsmore
197	Oregon, Queen of the Sea. Two-step	Robinson
245	Orvetta Waltz	Spencer
9	Our Little Agnes. Waltz	Gregoire
191	Over the Waves Waltz	Rosas
79	Please Do Waltz	Durkee
193	Poet and Peasant Overture (Suppe)	Brunner
265	Psyche. Gavotte	Mattei
167	Red, White and Blue Forever. March	Blasco
143	Richmond March—two-step	Missud
245	Rustic Waltz	Schumann
127	Rustling Leaves. Idylle	Lange
39	Ruth, Esther and Marion Schottische.	Cohen
149	Salem Witches March—Two-Step	Missud
189	Schubert's Serenade. Transcription	Liszt
161	Silvery Waves. Variations	Wyman
169	Smith's (General) March	Martin
31	Song of the Voyager	Paderewski
95	Spirit Lake Waltz	Simons
259	Spring Flowers Polka	Devrient
151	Storm, The. Imitation of Nature	Weber
73	Storm Mazurka	Keefer
109	Sultan's Band March.	Brown
209	Sweet Long Ago. Transcription	Blake
115	Tornado Galop	Arbuckle
103	Trifet's Grand March, op. 182	Wedel
223	Twilight Echoes. Song without words	Jewell
113	Under the Double Eagle March	Wagner
129	Venetian Waltz	Ludovic
205	Village Parade Quickstep	Allen
7	Visions of Light. Waltz	Cook
203	Warblings at Eve	Richards
93	Waves of the Ocean March	Blake
261	Wedding March	Mendelssohn
251	Winsome Grace. A perfect gem.	Howe
119	Woodland Whispers Waltzes	Stanley
105	Zephyr Waltz.	Bragg

No.	VOICE AND PIANO OR ORGAN.	
236	Across the Bridge	Le Brunn
2	Annie's Love. Duet for Sop. and Ten.	Winter
260	At Noontide	Hill
27	Ave Maria. From Cavalleria Rusticana	Mascagni
140	Beacon Light of Home	Estabrooke
134	Beautiful Moonlight. Duet	Glover
238	Bells of Seville	H. Jude
162	Ben Bolt, of "Trilby" fame	Kneass
226	Blue Eyes	Elson
246	Boyhood Days, Chorus	Fritz
200	Bridge, The. Words by Longfellow	Carew
268	Bride Bells	Boeckel
276	Brown Eyed Bessie Lee. Chorus	Arbuckle
192	Can You Sweetheart Keep a Secret?	Estabrooke
214	Childhood's Happy Hours	Dinsmore
138	Christmas Carol	Turner
190	Come When the Soft Twilight Falls	Schumann
168	Coon's Breach of Promise. Cake walk	Blake
92	Cow Bells, The. Boyhood's Recollection	Grimm
250	Darling I Shall Miss You	Cohen
176	Darling Nellie Gray	Hanby
244	De Banjo am de Instrument	Rutledge
70	Dear Heart, We're Growing Old	Estabrooke
128	Don't drink, my Boy, tonight. Temp.	Hoover
256	Dwelling with the Angels. Chorus.	Turner
50	Easter Eve. Sacred	Gounod
220	Ever Sweet is Thy Memory	Hosfeld
19	'E Dunno Where 'E Are. Comic	Eplett
72	Ellaline. Waltz song	Betts
180	Far Away	Bliss
182	Father is Drinking Again. Temperance	
152	Flag of Our Country. Patriotic	Mathiot
156	Flag, The. Quartette	Fox
144	Flirting in the Starlight	Delano
8	Flossie. Waltz Song	Cohen
138	For a Dream's Sake	Cowen
66	For You We are Praying at Home	Estabrooke
166	From our Home the Loved are Going	Percy
202	Give a Kiss to Me	Percy
178	God Bless My Kind Old Mother	Atwell
204	Golden Moon	Ivan
262	Greeting Duet	Mendelssohn
150	Gypsy Countess. Duet	Glover
198	Heart of My Heart	Robinson
272	How can I Leave Thee. Duet	Greenwood
184	I Can't Forget the Happy Past	Skelly
74	In Sweet September	Temple
248	In Shadowland	Pinsuti
266	In Summer Time	Marzials
188	In the Starlight. Duet	Glover
28	Juanita. Ballad	May
242	Kathleen Mavourneen	Crouch
196	Killarney	Balfe
132	Kiss me, but don't say goodbye	Rutledge
130	Kiss that bound my Heart to thine	Keil
164	Larboard Watch. Duet	Williams
146	Listen to the Mocking Bird	Hawthorne
48	Little Boy Blue. Solo or Duet	Estabrooke
154	Little Voices at the Door	Danks
96	Lost Chord, The	Sullivan
234	Margaretta	Balfe
112	Massa's Sleeping in de Churchyard	Keefer
230	Memories of my Mother. Chorus	Allen
52	Mother's Cry, A. (Salvation Army)	Advance
172	Mother's Welcome at the Door	Estabrooke
222	Musical Dialogue. Duet	Helmund
232	Must the Sweet Tie that binds	Estabrooke
76	My Home by the Old Mill	O'Halloran
110	My Little Lost Irene	Danks
170	My Old Kentucky Home	Foster
216	Oh, Sing Again that Gentle Strain.	Dinsmore
228	Old Folks at Home (Swanee Ribber)	Foster
60	Old Glory. National	Woods
102	Old Sexton, The	Russell
270	Old Village Church	Hatton
104	On the Banks of the Beautiful River	Estabrooke
90	On the Beach. Most beautiful ballad	Robinson
250	Out on the Deep	Lohr
160	Outcast, An. Character Song	Fritz
174	Parted from our Dear Ones	Keller
254	Picture of My Mother, The	Skelly
148	Poor Girl didn't know. Comic.	Cooke
274	Private Tommy Atkins	Potter
136	Request. Sacred	Grainger
208	Rocked in the Cradle of the Deep	Knight
142	Rosemonde	Chaminade
80	See Those Living Pictures	Guth
224	Shall I Ever See Mother's Face Again?	Adriance
194	She Sleeps among the Daisies	Dinsmore
124	Softly shine the Stars of Evening	Dinsmore
210	Son's Return, The	Fritz
120	Storm at Sea. Descriptive	Hullah
278	Summer Shower	Marzials
10	Sweetest Song, The	Denza
32	Sweet Long Ago, The	Estabrooke
46	That Word was Hope. Waltz song	Nutting
118	There's a Rainbow in the Clouds	Danks
206	There's Sure to be a Way	Delano
158	Thinking of Home and Mother	Cohen
116	'Tis True, Dear Heart, We're Fading	Estabrooke
108	Tread softly, the Angels are calling	Turner
38	True to the Last	Adams
64	Vicar of Bray, The. Old English Song	
62	Your Mother's Love for You	Koppt
252	Warrior Bold	Adams
84	What are the Wild Waves Saying? Duet	Glover
58	When the Roses are Blooming Again	Skelly
88	When Winter Days Have Gone	Frayne
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212	Why am I ever Watching	de Lasalde
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UNBROKEN VOWS.

WORDS AND MUSIC BY JEAN McDONALD.



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ABOUT PADEREWSKI.

Of all the foreigners who have carried away American gold none have inspired so much interest as Ignace Paderewski. His romantic air and hair and the story of his devotion to his wife, who died for lack of necessaries just as he was attaining fortune, and his personal traits have caused him to be the idol of matinee girls and almost the contempt of men. Much of the glamour was dispelled when he came to this country last year as a married man again and some of the sickly sentimentalism and gush was not in evidence as much as usual. Newspaper reports say that Paderewski missed this adulation to such an extent that he went away in high dudgeon, but carrying the usual amount of American dollars.

Notwithstanding his vanities and mannerisms, there can be no doubt of his ability as an artist and whatever he does is of interest to all musical people, who will learn by this writing that Paderewski has no intention of returning to America this year. He will be in Dresden until November arranging with Herr von Schuch the production of his forthcoming opera at the famous Royal Opera House in that city. After its run in Dresden it is intended to bring out the same opera in a number of the continental cities and eventually in England and America.

Speaking of the good American dollars, such profits as Paderewski made in his last American season are not only phenomenal but are not possible for a pianist only once in a while, and at intervals of several years. It must be remembered that his previous trip to this country and his many newspaper friends had given him the best of advertising; and that he could not have that advantage now. In fact, it would be out of the question for him to repeat now the very successful tour he then made.

Now the trip last made was a serious disappointment to the pianist and his friends and far failed of reaching the expectations they had seriously formed of his triumph and the material benefits that he would receive. These visions founded on the results of the past were not destined to be fulfilled; but notwithstanding the tour produced an ample fortune for the artist.

SOUSA'S FAMOUS BAND.

There was a time when it was the proper thing in Europe to believe that "Nothing good could come out of Nazareth." That is, that everything American must be crude and poor, but our Spanish war and the events in which America has taken part in the last two years have called so much attention to us and our ways that we are really receiving the greatest attention ever given us. Nothing can better illustrate this than the recent triumphal tour through Europe by Sousa's band. In every large city they were received with enthusiasm, especially in Paris, where the band was recipient of what might be called an international ovation at the exposition.

Throughout Europe they were received by the highly educated musical people as one of the best aggregations the world has ever seen, and flags, medals and honors came to them unceasingly. One of the remarkable features of the tour was the immediate popularity of American "rag time" music with every nation. The calls for it were constant, and its popularity was only exceeded by the spirited playing of Sousa's own incomparable two-steps.

After a tour which was not only a triumph in itself but full of delight to the members, the band returned to New York last month, to the delight of that city, which felt that it shared in her favorite's success.

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Whenever one purchases sheet music it naturally occurs to the buyer that the price as compared with other printed matter seems unusually high. This being true now how much more so was it a few years ago when all music was at least forty cents and much of it cost a dollar. Though this is still true in a measure now as a rule the price is more moderate and largely because COMFORT and a few leaders depending on rapid machinery and modern methods, and seeing the great field for cheaper music, solved the problem for the people.

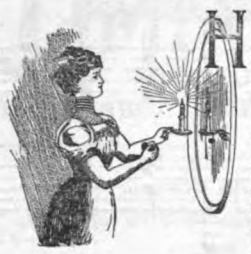
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Every nation has music peculiar to itself and one of our soldiers in China recently wrote COMFORT of the peculiarities of martial music in that country. The chief instrument of a village military band was an immense copper drum about four feet high hung on stakes. Upon this two soldiers beat furiously while other members of the band beat gongs, cymbals and drums, and others blew upon pipes. What our correspondent heard was the Chinese call to arms and is described as noisy as it was lacking in harmony; but it brought up the Imperial Soldiers.

HALLOWE'EN.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



HALLOWE'EN, the last night in October, has been celebrated from time immemorial. At some of the American colleges for women it is customary to celebrate Hallowe'en with straw rides, games and an annual sheet and pillow-case party, where the illuminations are grotesque pumpkins containing candles, and where cakes containing mystic rings, beans and a coin are served with the refreshments.

Many young girls fill the mouth with water on Hallowe'en and walk or run around the block, being careful not to swallow the water or suffer it to escape from the mouth. If a girl succeeds in doing this the first man met on returning home will be her husband.

To ascertain one's standing with a sweetheart, select at random an apple and quarter it, carefully gathering the seeds from the core. According to the number found the following formula is used: 1, I love; 2, I love; 3, I love, I say; 4, I love with all my heart; 5, I cast away; 6, He loves; 7, She loves; 8, They both love; 9, He comes; 10, He tarries; 11, He courts; 12, He marries; 13, Honor; 14, Riches.

The future is sometimes prognosticated on Hallowe'en by candle omens. If a candle burns with an azure tint it signifies the presence or near approach of a spirit or gnome. A collection of tallow rising against the candlewick is styled a winding sheet, and is deemed an omen of death in the family. A spark at the candle denotes that the observer will shortly receive a letter.

Two cambric needles are named on Hallowe'en and skillfully placed in a vessel of water. If they float, swimming side by side, the course of true love runs smooth for those they represent. If they sink both together, or if one sinks and the other floats, the persons named will not marry each other.

A printed alphabet is cut into its individual letters which are placed in water face downward. On the morrow the initial letters of the favored opposite will be found reversed.

Peel an apple so that the skin remains in unbroken sequence. Whirl this skin three times around the head so that when released it passes over the left shoulder and falls to the floor, assuming the initial of the chosen one's name.

To the old Scotch Hallowe'en superstitions there have been added other formerly unattached superstitions, until it is now difficult, if not impossible, to trace whence came many of the observances that mark the closing day of October. In certain parts of the world the old Druid fires are still lit on Hallowmas Eve, but without knowing that the surviving custom is a relic of paganism. In Ireland, as well as in Scotland and Scandinavia, Hallowe'en observances are current, one of them being the ceremony of the making of the dumbcake. Several young women should each take a handful of wheaten flour and add water and salt to make a dough, which should be kneaded by them with their left thumbs, unbroken silence being maintained by all the company. Each one must then roll her cake up and spread it thin and broad, marking on it with a large new pin the initials of her name. The several cakes are then set before the fire, and each cake maker sits quietly in a chair as far removed from the cakes as the room will permit. This must all be done soon after eleven o'clock at night, and between that time and twelve o'clock each person turns her cake once, and a few minutes after midnight the husband of one who is to be first married will appear and lay his hand on the part of the cake marked as aforesaid. A supplement to the dumbcake ceremony will show the occupation of a girl's future lord and master. This consists in melting a quantity of lead and in pouring the molten metal carefully through a symbolic brass key into cold water. The shape assumed by the resultant metal mass indicates the trade, business or profession of the longed-for knight.

The matter of occupation or social state is also determined by taking a walnut, a hazelnut and a nutmeg, and grating them well together. Mix them with butter and sugar, and of the plastic mass make small pills, of which exactly nine, no more and no less, must be taken on retiring. If a maiden dreams of riches she will marry a wealthy man; of white linen, a clergyman; of darkness, a lawyer; of odd noises and tumults, a tradesman; of thunder and lightning, a soldier or sailor; and of rain, a servant.

An interesting Hallowe'en divination that solves matrimonial doubt and banishes uncertainty is accomplished by arranging three dishes upon the hearth. Into the first is put clean water, into the second clouded or muddy water, while the third is left empty. The candidate is securely blindfolded and led to the hearth where the dishes are. The left hand is dipped and if by chance it be in the clean water, the wife that is to be will come to the bar of matrimony a young maid; if in the muddy water, an old maid, but if in the empty dish, it foretells with equal certainty no marriage at all. This ceremony is three times repeated, the arrangement of the dishes being each time changed.

The first ceremony of Hallowe'en among the Scotch is the pulling of a stock or plant of kail. All the company go out and with closed eyes each pulls the first plant of this kind he or she is able to lay hold of. Its being little or big, straight or crooked is prophetic of the size and shape and other characteristics of the grand object of all the Hallowe'en spells—the husband or wife. If any earth remains clinging to the root, that signifies fortune, and the state of the heart of the stem, as perceptible to the taste, is indicative of the natural temper and disposition of a future spouse.

Burning nuts is a famous Caledonian charm. Two hazel nuts, sacred to witches, one bearing the name of the lad and the other the lass, are laid in the fire, side by side, and according as they burn quietly together or start away from one another, so will be the progress and issue of the courtship.

Certain forms must be observed to insure the success of a given spell, and in the following one there must be no departure from the formula: A maiden should steal out, entirely alone, to the kiln, and throw into the pot a ball of blue yarn, holding fast to the end. She should then begin winding the yarn until it resists, whereupon she should demand, "Who holds this yarn?" An answer will be returned from the kilnpot, naming the Christian and surname of her future spouse.

Another test is for her to take a candle, and, going alone, by its light only, stand before a mirror and eat an apple. Some traditions say one should comb one's hair instead of eating the apple. The conditions of the spell being perfect, a shadowy face, supposed to be that of the maiden's future husband, will be seen in the glass, as if peeping over her shoulder.

Another Scotch ceremony into which the uncanny largely enters as an element, is described as follows: One or more go out, as the case may be (for this is a social spell), to a south running spring or rivulet, where "three lairds' lands meet," and dip the left shirt sleeve. Go to bed in sight of a fire and hang the wet sleeve before it to dry. Lie awake watching carefully, and about midnight an apparition having the exact figure of the grand object in question will come and turn the sleeve, as if to dry the other side of it.

Ducking for apples and the attempt to secure, by means of the mouth only, an apple balanced upon a stick suspended from the ceiling, upon the other end of which is placed a lighted candle, provokes much laughter and no little spirited competition. For a girl to know if she will marry within the year she must obtain a green peapod in which are exactly nine peas; hang it over the door, and if the next man guest entering be a bachelor her own marriage will follow within twelve months. This spell is sometimes tried at other times than at Hallowe'en, but the conditions then are generally considered less favorable.

Three small rings should be purchased by a maiden during the period of a new moon, each at a different place. She should tie them together with her left garter and place them in her left glove with a scrap of paper, cut heart shaped, on which her sweetheart's name has been written in blue ink. The whole should be placed under her pillow when retiring Hallowe'en and she will dream of her sweetheart if she is to marry him.

Anyhow, whether there be any "coming true" about these signs or not, the young people of to-day are like those of yesterday and long ago; they will try their fortunes and see.

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5-DRAWER DROP HEAD CABINET, a great improvement over the old style up-right woodwork. It is so constructed that when not in use the head may be dropped out of sight, where it is protected from dust and dirt and affords you a handsome desk, stand or table. HIGH ARM—Our $11.25 Home Queen has one of the highest arms of any sewing machine made, giving ample room for the handling of large and bulky material. FINISH—Our $11.25 Home Queen is given an extra fine finish throughout. Has heavy nickel plated face plate, nickel plated balance wheel, very finest full finished enameling, with fancy colored decoration and ornamentation.

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Do not compare this our $11.25 HOME QUEEN SEWING MACHINE with any of the cheap, shoddy sewing machines, that are being widely advertised by houses, some of questionable reputation, at prices ranging from almost nothing up to $30.00. If you want to appreciate the value we are giving, the difference between the $11.25 Home Queen and the machines advertised by others at the same and higher prices, LET US SEND YOU A HOME QUEEN TO YOUR NEAREST RAILROAD STATION, let any other house send you their machine at the same time and on the same terms, compare them side by side, and if you do not find the Home Queen cheaper in price and from $10.00 TO $20.00 BETTER IN QUALITY AND FINISH, you can return the machine to us at our expense of freight charges both ways.



SPECIAL OFFER TO DEALERS

IN SEWING MACHINES; MERCHANTS OF ALL CLASSES. As our special $11.25 price is from $2.00 to $5.00 lower than dealers can buy inferior machines at wholesale in carload lots; for the benefit of progressive merchants and sewing machine dealers EVERYWHERE who want to handle A STRICTLY HIGH GRADE MACHINE, and at the same time undersell any kind of competition, who want to offer a machine that is $10.00 better in quality and $2.00 to $5.00 lower in price than the machine they are now handling, WE MAKE THIS SPECIAL OFFER TO DEALERS EVERYWHERE.

ANY DEALER ordering not less than three machines at one time will be supplied at our special $11.25 price, and the machine will be put out under another name (which is a special name for dealers only). We will use a plain stand and treadle; in fact, our name and address will be removed from every part of the machine. The dealer can sell the machine under his own name as the highest grade machine he handles at the lowest price ever known. While we have arranged to give dealers the benefit of our $11.25 price, heretofore unknown to the sewing machine trade, by getting the machine out for them under their own special name AND BY ENTIRELY REMOVING OUR NAME FROM THE MACHINE (WHEN ORDERED IN LOTS OF 3 OR MORE), WE CAN OFFER THEM NO ADVANTAGE IN PRICE. We cannot and will not make one cent concession from our $11.25 price, even in 100 lots.



No. 98K ORDER BY NUMBER.

This illustration gives you an idea of the appearance of our special $11.25 5-Drawer, Drop Head Cabinet Home Queen Sewing Machine closed, to be used as a writing desk, center table or stand. The head drops completely from sight, table folds up, and being highly polished and finished antique oak, very elaborately decorated, you have really a beautiful piece of furniture. The illustrations and descriptions can give you but a very faint idea of the handsome machine the Home Queen is, of the wonderful value we are offering at $11.25. You must see it, examine it, use it, and compare it with other machines to really appreciate the value we are offering.

OUR NEW... 1900 MODEL

HOME QUEEN

HAS EVERY MODERN IMPROVEMENT, all the up-to-date points of every high grade sewing machine made. Has the newest style 5-drawer cabinet, made of solid oak, beautifully finished and highly polished. The large illustration shows the machine closed, head dropping from sight, to be used as a center table, stand or desk. It comes with four side drawers and one center drawer, the latest 1900 model skeleton frame, one of the most massive, most complete and expensive sewing machine cabinets made, carved, paneled, embossed and beautifully finished throughout; fine nickel drawer pulls, rests on four casters, has a Saxon adjustable treadle and the best full black enameled iron stand made.

ATTACHMENTS FURNISHED.....

At $11.25 we furnish the celebrated high arm, high grade, 20-year guaranteed, 5-drawer, full drop head cabinet Home Queen Sewing Machine complete with one quilter, two screwdrivers, six bobbins, one package of needles, one cloth gauge and screw, one oil can filled with oil and a complete instruction book, an instruction book which makes everything so plain that even a child without previous experience can operate the machine at once. For 25 cents extra we furnish in addition to the regular attachments above mentioned, the following special attachments: One thread cutter, one braider foot, one binder and one set of plain hemmers of different widths, up to ⅝ of an inch. Understand, if you want this extra set of attachments you must so state in your order and it will add 25 cents to the price of the machine.

PLEASE UNDERSTAND OUR OFFER.

All that is necessary for you to do is to write us and mention Special Offer No. 98K, give us the name of your postoffice and nearest railroad station, being sure to write your name plainly and in full. We will send you the sewing machine by freight C. O. D., subject to examination. We, of course, expect you to order in good faith. We expect that if you find the machine exactly as illustrated and described, just as we have represented it to be, that you will take it and pay the railroad agent our special offer price of $11.25 and freight charges, you to have the privilege of returning it to us at any time within three months if you become dissatisfied for any reason whatever, your money to be immediately returned to you. Understand, the railroad agent, while he will allow you the privilege of examining the machine, will not deliver it to you to be taken home until he has collected the $11.25 and freight charges.

THIS ILLUSTRATION gives you an idea of the appearance of the high grade high arm HOME QUEEN SEWING MACHINE, which we furnish at $11.25, in the handsome, 5-drawer, drop-head, oak cabinet illustrated. For lack of space we show only one illustration of the cabinet showing it closed. It can, of course, be opened, the head raised and leaf extended ready for sewing. The Home Queen Head is one of the very best high arm heads made. Positive four-motion feed, self-threading, vibrating shuttle, automatic bobbin winder, adjustable bearings, patent tension liberator, improved nickel plated loose wheel, adjustable presser foot, improved shuttle carrier, patent needle bar, patent dress guard, patent belt controller. The head is handsomely decorated and ornamented, full nickel plated face plate, black enameled base, handsome colored transfer ornamentations, beautiful nickel trimmings throughout. It is made on honor by the highest sewing machine maker in America, only the very best material is used and our special $11.25 price is based on the actual cost of material and labor, the cost of the raw iron, steel, wood and mechanical labor, with but our one small percentage of profit added, A PRICE HERETOFORE UNKNOWN, A SEWING MACHINE VALUE NEVER BEFORE ATTEMPTED.

AS TO OUR RELIABILITY, We refer you to our customers among your own neighbors. Ask them if they would advise you to send your order to us. We also refer to any express company, railroad company, business house or resident of Chicago.

Address your orders plainly to **SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO. (INC.), CHICAGO, ILL.**



EDITOR'S NOTE. The following rules govern the publication of matter in this department.

Contributors must without exception be regular subscribers to Comfort, and every contribution must bear the writer's own name and post-office address in full.

Original letters only, which deal with matters of general interest, will be published. They must be as brief, plain and correct as the writers can make them, and may vary in length from one hundred to four hundred words. Only letters of exceptional merit and interest may reach six hundred and fifty words. Contributors must write on one side of the paper only.

$10 CASH PRIZES $10.

The following cash prizes will be paid monthly:

1st.	For the best original letter	$3.00
2nd.	" " second best original letter	2.50
3rd.	" " third " " "	2.00
4th.	" " fourth " " "	1.50
5th.	" " fifth " " "	1.00

Competitors for these monthly cash prizes must *comply with all the above rules*, and in addition must bring at least one new Cousin into the COMFORT circle; that is, they must send one new subscriber with each letter, together with 50 cents for a yearly subscription.

These cash prizes will be announced monthly in this department.

No premiums will be given for subscriptions sent in under this Prize Offer.

All communications must be addressed to Aunt Minerva, care of COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

CASH PRIZE WINNERS.

Mrs. M. S. Barnes,	**$3.00**
Genevieve Fleming,	**2.50**
Leona White,	**2.50**
Mrs. Mary W. Early,	**2.00**
Mrs. Maud B. Rodgers,	**2.00**
J. Mayne Baltimore,	**1.50**
Mrs. F. A. Mitchell,	**1.00**

DEAR NIECES AND NEPHEWS:

Once more we welcome October, gorgeous in her robes of autumn hues. How beautiful she is! and how charming are the woodlands where

"The sound of dropping nuts is heard
When all the woods are still."

Would that we might all grow old as gracefully as does the waning year! Ever making the most and the best of what remains. Cheerfully and with exactitude performing its daily round of duties, and murmuring not though its circle of usefulness and pleasure grows daily more and more narrow and restricted, until finally its work is finished, and its stiff, bare and barren surfaces are covered by the kindly snows.

Our first letter this month is a little out of our usual order of subjects, but is, to me, exceedingly interesting, and I hope Mrs. Barnes will soon favor us with a second letter. She says:

"I became much interested one autumn in a little colony which sojourned near me for several weeks, though at first they made me feel rather creepy, for they were neither more nor less than a number of small red and black worms that took up their quarters upon the leaves of a passion flower trained about my door. However, as they showed no disposition to intrude beyond the threshold, I grew accustomed to their presence and became interested in watching how fast they grew, and what an astonishing quantity of my vine they managed to consume. As it was late in the season, and the vine would soon be killed, I did not disturb the interlopers, but decided to take this opportunity to observe a little natural history.

"The small gourmands seemed to thrive wonderfully upon passion-flower, and soon attained a length of about three inches and the thickness of a lead pencil. Then they seemed to grow sleepy, stopped eating, and one by one began to attach themselves to the stems of the plant or to the window frames and weatherboarding, where they seemed to be going into a rapid decline, so shrunken and feeble did they appear. But lo! one morning I noticed that one of them had changed its form entirely, and was now encased in a shell not half the size of the full grown worm, but having the same colors of black and Indian red. Gradually they all took this form, though somehow I could never catch them at it, and hung, perfectly inanimate.

"No attention was paid them for some time, but one day some one exclaimed, 'Why, the chrysalids are coming to life!'

"Sure enough, by the side of a broken shell there was a butterfly with crumpled silken wings and shining eyes that seemed to look out upon the world with positive intelligence. In a few days a number of these beauties, still dressed in the family colors, black and red, fluttered about the house, some even making their way inside, where we enjoyed offering them sugar and water, and watching them unroll their long probosces to partake of it. One by one they fluttered away, whether to lay their eggs and die or to hibernate in a sheltered place as some species do I am not naturalist enough to say.

"I had watched three stages of the life of this family of lepidoptera, the worm, the chrysalis and the butterfly; only one remaining, the egg, from which is again hatched the worm.

"If Aunt Minerva will allow me I may in a future letter tell you about some other beautiful chrysalids."

MRS. M. S. BARNES, Nashville, Tenn.

The two following letters were accidentally omitted from the August number of COMFORT.

"I wonder how many of Aunt Minerva's nephews and nieces have ever taken thought as to the number of hands through which the luscious strawberry passes ere it reaches the table, as beautiful as it is delicious. You have all read, no doubt, of the great strawberry fields of northwestern Arkansas and southeastern Missouri, where hundreds of acres are grown, and of thousands of people congregating near Sarcoxie, Mo., to pick strawberries. Southeastern Kansas is coming to the front as a strawberry producing country, immense crops of fine berries having been produced here.

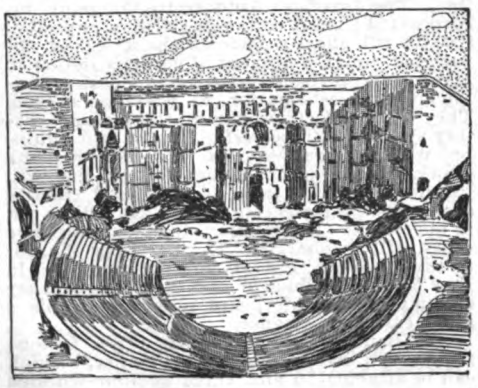
"But now as to the harvesting of the berries. The pickers—men, women and children of all sizes, ages, and colors—carry wooden trays, or carriers, holding from six to eight quart boxes, which, after they are filled with berries, are 'faced'; that is, the berries on top are turned stem downward. When the picker goes into the field with his tray of empty boxes he is given a certain row by one of the field 'bosses', whose business it is also to see that the berries are properly picked, that is, not over-ripe nor yet too green, and with stems about half an inch long, and also to see that the pickers do not injure the plants.

"After the boxes are filled and faced they are taken to the shed, where the ticket agent, usually a lady, receives them and gives in return a ticket showing the number of quarts picked. And here is where the ticket agent must keep her eyes open, for some unscrupulous person will probably have his boxes filled half-full of leaves or other trash; or some mischievous youngster may have found a small snake or terrapin in the field and put it into a box of berries, and if she doesn't detect an unusual twinkle in that boy's eye she is liable to pay for that box along with the rest. After the berries are received at the shed the packers put them into crates holding twenty-four quarts each. They are then nailed up and are billed, and ready to be shipped. Other employes, besides those already named, are the foreman, the shipping and billing clerks, and the dairymen.

"The pickers receive one and one-half cents a quart for picking, and a good picker, in a good season, can pick a hundred or more quarts a day. A thirty acre field will employ three hundred pickers, and as the season, beginning here the first week of May, lasts from three to four weeks, some idea can be had of the amonnt paid for picking. The pickers usually receive their pay at the end of each week, though sometimes not until the end of the season. After the season is over the field is cleared of all weeds and cultivated."

LEONA WHITE, Columbus, Kansas.

"One of the most interesting points for the tourist to visit in France is the old town of Orange, in the department of Vaucluse, standing in the midst of fertile meadows, orchards and mulberry plantations. The Roman remains are what impart a peculiar interest to this town. Conspicuous amongst these is the theater built against the hill commanding the town. It is one of the most beautiful and imposing remains of the old Roman architecture now extant. The facade is one hundred and eighteen feet high, three hundred and forty feet long, and thirteen feet thick, and is pierced by



OLD ROMAN THEATER AT ORANGE, FRANCE.

three square gates, surmounted by a range of blind arches and a double row of far-projecting corbels. Only the lower ranges of seats now remain, though it is presumable that the theater had a seating capacity of seven thousand when it was in good preservation. The Princes of Orange made it an outwork of the Castle which they erected on the hill, and which was demolished after DeGrignan had taken the town for Louis XIV. That monarch pronounced the Roman theater at Orange the most beautiful building in his kingdom.

"Up to the beginning of this century, this theater was filled with hovels and stables, but these are now swept away and the place is kept in the order to which it is entitled as one of the finest remains of the Roman Empire.

"Orange also boasts of a splendid triumphal arch, not only the finest in France, but ranking third in size and importance amongst those still extant in Europe. It measures seventy-two feet in height, sixty-nine feet in width, and twenty-six feet in depth, and is composed of three arches, supported by four Corinthian columns. On three sides it is well preserved, and displays great elegance and variety in its sculptured decorations. It seems to have been erected in the reign of Tiberius to judge by an inscription upon it.

"In the neighborhood of the theater at Orange, traces have been found of a hippodrome capable of containing twenty thousand persons, and statues, bas reliefs and aqueducts also show the importance of this old Roman town."

MARY W. EARLY, Lynchburg, Va.

One, at least, of my nieces had a delightful trip least, summer judging by the following letter.

"It was six o'clock in the evening when we reached Tadoussac, a quaint little village lying just at the mouth of the dark, mysterious Saguenay. As the boat could not pursue her way up the river until midnight on account of the tide, most of the passengers landed and proceeded to find out the attractions of the town.

"It may have been the twilight or perhaps the blackness of the Saguenay waters contrasted with the blue St. Lawrence, but there was a loneliness about the place which made one feel that it had been dropped down here among these wild, rugged Canadian mountains from some other world. A rough little up-hill path led from the wharf and gradually assumed the dignity of a street. At last low white houses made their appearance on either side of it.

"Not far from the water we found the pools for propagating salmon, and the golden fish flashed and played through the water perfectly indifferent to the groups of spectators on the banks. Tadoussac is famous for its fishing and in the summer numbers of anglers come to the one hotel of the place which is situated on the mountain side.



CATHOLIC CHURCH OVER TWO HUNDRED YEARS OLD—TADOUSSAC.

"Leaving the salmon pools, we continued our way to a small Roman Catholic church which stands almost on the shores of a bay, and marks the spot where the cross was first planted in these regions. It is a quaint little wooden structure over two hundred years old. On the altar two dim lamps were burning, but the church is only opened for divine service once a year, on the feast of St. Anne. Instead of the cross and usual altar emblems, there were displayed pictures and guide books, which were disposed of by a dark-eyed French girl who told us that the profits from these went toward keeping the church in repair. A tall, slender, black robed French priest with a fair, sweet face and gentle manners, told us, in very good English, the history of the church. Standing in the small, dimly lighted building, with the murmur of the river breaking faintly on the ear, one could not help a feeling of deep reverence for this place, hallowed by two hundred years of prayers and devotions. How many have knelt before this simple communion rail, people who lived and died in this quiet village, without knowing anything of the great world beyond their lofty mountains!

"Night was closing in as we left the church and retraced our steps to the boat, where we sat for awhile and watched the phosphorescent light on the black water, and then retired to our berths, leaving Tadoussac, wrapped in the embrace of the rugged hills, where she seemed to nestle contentedly."

GENEVIEVE FLEMING, Washington, D. C.



THE FLOOD VILLA, MENLO PARK, CALIFORNIA.

The following description of the "Flood" Place makes one's heart swell with thankfulness that when wealth was placed in the hands of Miss Jennie Flood it was in the possession of one "who loved her fellow-men."

"At Fair Oaks, California, thirty miles south of San Francisco, is situated one of the finest estates ever bequeathed to an educational institution, and the finest country seat in the state—the Flood villa, recently presented to the State University by Miss Jennie Flood. The hundreds of elaborately cultivated acres comprising the estate are enclosed by a high and very beautiful fence with posts and massive gates of such intricate workmanship that its construction alone cost a fortune. High above this fence, which extends about a mile, the splendid live oaks and other trees lift their branches and so completely shut off any view of the interior that it is not until the gates are reached that one can obtain even a meager view of the place through the long avenue that leads to the house.

"With the coming of the earliest spring days all those trees and shrubs of the southland and the hardier species, such as the lilac and catalpa, scattered so plentifully about the grounds, burst into bloom and fill the air with delicious sweetness, while great roses and delicate vines drooping from amid high oak branches brighten the dense green of their surroundings with their long sprays of flowers.

"Passing down the driveway one comes here and there upon a graceful little arbor formed by the fastening together of long branches of neighboring palm trees and fern asparagus, or some artistic bronze figure amid the greenery, until the great fountain confronts one as if to eclipse what has gone before and to prepare one for the massive magnificence of the mansion. This fountain, situated just before the wide front veranda, rises from the center of acres of lawn and is supported by many tall and graceful figures. The smooth green terrace with its marble steps leading to this fountain and its ivy covered balustrades reminds one of the terraced grounds of Italian villas and lends a foreign aspect to the scene. One of the distinctive features of the place is its countless number of palm trees, among the first to be planted in California, whose lofty spreading fronds



THE GIANT ROCK.

seemingly emit the sunny warmth of the tropics and the tranquility of those southern islands whose flora is even more exuberant than that of California. The house itself, which was built by a French nobleman, is exceedingly splendid, is patterned after a chateau, and is ornamented with artistic carvings and the many other beautiful embellishments in which French architects delight.

"Owing to its vast proportions the faculty of the university have decided to use this estate for a college of agriculture, retaining the mansion as it is for the use of the professors and students, and nowhere could be found a more inviting place for scholars or a spot more fitted to inspire one with the love of all that is beautiful in nature, as well as with the love of learning."

MAUD B. RODGERS, San Francisco, Cal.

Now comes the description of another western wonder.

"In Spokane County, Washington, is to be found a most remarkable rock, of colossal proportions, and of peculiar formation and shape. Far and wide it is known as Giant Rock, and the vast upheaval certainly merits that cognomen. Around the base it measures more than twelve hundred feet. From base to apex, three hundred. The huge pile tapers a little, in a rough, unsymmetrical manner, and the top is nearly round, but not level. It rises abruptly from the southern side of a high, rugged and sparsely timbered mountain, the ground all around its base being very steep and precipitous. It is, so far as can be determined, a single stone, utterly bare of vegetation or soil. It is a very conspicuous landmark, being visible for miles, towering aloft like a mighty sentinel.

"From only the southern side can Giant Rock be ascended. On all others it rises nearly perpendicular, and even on the southern side the ascent is one of great difficulty and peril, but the magnificent view from its summit amply repays the climber. The rock is not difficult to reach, as a winding roadway leads up the side of the mountain, and the ascent is so gradual that travel is easy either on horseback or in a carriage. Hundreds of tourists visit it every year, but only men have, thus far, attempted to scale its rugged side. The feat is too arduous and too perilous for a woman's strength."

J. MAYNE BALTIMORE, Spokane, Wash.

The subject of our next letter, although much written up, is one which never grows old, and of which we never tire.

"The Mountain of the Holy Cross is fourteen miles from Red Cliff, Colorado. Its altitude is 14,176 feet. Near its summit is the cross, which is formed by deep fissures worn in the mountain side, in the form of a cross. So deep are these fissures that the snow in them never melts, and when it disappears from the surrounding surfaces, the cross may be seen from a great distance. It is about one hundred miles from here, but may be plainly seen by the naked eye, by climbing one of the mountains.

"When I saw it, eight years ago, it was perfect, and it seemed to me that it had been placed there, as it were, by the hand of God, in the eternal rocks. that we might not forget Him in these far away Rockies. But it has since been defaced by a land slide, which carried away portions of one arm. Would it not be a noble work for some philanthropist to spend a few hundreds or thousands, if need



MOUNTAIN OF THE HOLY CROSS.

be, to restore this heavenly emblem? Perhaps God has suffered it to be thus moved, in order to rouse in the soul of some whom He has blessed with abundance, something of the spirit which animated all Christendom in the war of the Crusaders."

MRS. F. A. MITCHELL, Montezuma, Colorado.

Now our space is full, and we must gather up the remainder of our budget and store it away in Aunt Minerva's wall pocket, to wait until we come together again in November. In the meantime, may success and content and happiness attend you each and all.

AUNT MINERVA.

A Rough Rider Sword Stick Pin

is the latest idea for a campaign novelty. Can be worn by supporters of all candidates. Very attractive. Warranted gold plated, wide sword blade, a very strong handsome pin. Can be worn by either sex in the necktie or on the shirt waist. We have a quantity to unload and will send one all charges paid for only 10c. stamps or silver. Address
NATIONAL FARMER, Augusta, Maine.

$8 Paid Per 100 for Distributing Samples of Washing fluid. Send 6c. stamp. A. W. SCOTT, Cohoes, N.Y.

600 SECOND HAND BICYCLES $3 to $10. Bargain list free. Mead Cycle Co., Dept. B.O, Chicago.

COE'S ECZEMA CURE $1 Large sample mailed free. CoeChem. Co., Cleveland, O.

WANTED. Good Agents to sell our preparations. Address Bay State Drug & Chemical Co., Boston, Mass.

C. S. A. MONEY Circulars free. Address P. E. Cheney, Box 6, Mutual, Ohio.

$5.00 CASH per 1000 paid to Distribute Circulars. Enclose 4 stamps. World Adv. Asse'n, Chicago.

$50 Month made writing at home. 7c. postage for particulars. A. H. CO., Box 916, Prov. R. I.

FREE 28 Campaign Pictures FREE. Make Big Money. Clark Co., 513 W. Balto. St., Balto., Md.

WRITE for my catalogue of New Sheet Music. G. B. WRIGHT, 58 Main St., Marshall, Mich.

DETECTIVE Shrewd, reliable man wanted in every locality. Act under orders. No experience needed. American Detective Ass'n, Indianapolis, Ind.

PHOTOS COPIED 20c, 50c, 75c & $1.00 DOZ. 1 BUTTON 12c or 3 same Photo 25c. Photo returned uninjured. Elegant work. Sample Photo (our selection) & 10 Cat. 3c, 4 Samp. 10c. Agents. Sunbeam Photo Co. Dep. D S, Buffalo, N.Y.

ASTHMA Instant relief & positive cure. Sample mailed free to any sufferer. "Physician" Box 36, Augusta, Maine.

$100.00 PER MONTH and expenses paid the right man for selling our famous Poultry Food. For full instructions, FREE, address LAMBERT FOOD CO., Dept. 37, Parsons, Kas.

Magic Dip Needle for locating GOLD AND SILVER, and Hidden Treasures. One instrument free to one person in each locality. Address P. & M. AGENCY, Dept. 209, Palmyra, Pa.

CHILD LOST for 18 years. Stolen from the cradle. She was told who and where parents lived by ZEMINDAR, Great Hindu Seer, who foretells correctly all Private Affairs. Health. Business. Send stamp for particulars. Box C, 245, Saratoga, N.Y.

WATCH, CHAIN & STICK PIN FREE

BOYS AND GIRLS can get this watch, chain and gold stick pin all for selling 20 packs of ROSEBUD PERFUME WONDER at 10c. each (sweetest of all perfumes, prevents moth). Or 20 packs of SMITH'S ONE MINUTE HEADACHE KURE at 10c. each. Send your name and address, NO MONEY, and we will forward either one postpaid, and large premium list.
ROSEBUD PERFUME CO., Box 88 Woodsboro, Md.

KICK! KICK!



Foot Ball playing leads the van for real live sport, we have just secured a thousand of the very best make, genuine large size rubber canvass Foot Balls, they are twenty-seven inches in circumference and made in the strongest and most thorough manner. Men, boys and everybody enjoy the exercise of Foot Ball and now all can enter into the sport. It is the most exhilarating amusement and healthful pastime agoing.

BALL FREE. For a club of only three yearly subscribers at 25c. each we will send one of these great Foot Balls free, all charges paid, or send eighty-two cents and we will send the ball and one yearly subscription all charges paid. Address
COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.



BY EVERETT G. WHEELMAN.

THERE is "something new under the sun" all the time in the cycling world. It is my business to keep you informed of these things, but don't, I beg of you, write me for addresses of dealers or inventors, as it is utterly impossible for me to give them to you.

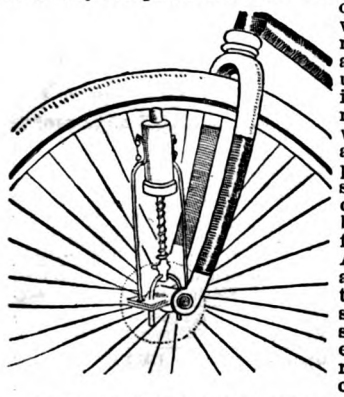
The truth of the old adage "Time is money" was never more effectively demonstrated than in the case of multimillionaire Fiske, who, with an income reckoned to be somewhere in the neighborhood of a dollar a minute, came to the conclusion that he wasted entirely too much valuable time in going to and from his office.

Now Mr. Fiske's residence is in the New York suburbs, quite an hour's ride away from the heart of the metropolis, and he conceived the idea of devoting the two hours daily spent in travel to the demands of his business and his toilet. He therefore caused to be constructed an automobile large enough to hold a desk, pigeon-hole shelving and typewriting outfit, his stenographer and a caller or two, with a small dressing room attached.

The automobile office is, during business hours, backed up against the millionaire's place of business, with door wide open to allow easy access to books and papers. When errands are to be performed or he seeks his home, Mr. Fiske enters the "auto" with his stenographer, continuing the work en route or perhaps engaged in completing his toilet for dinner.

Arriving home, he is ready to discuss his meal at once, no time being lost, as formerly, in dressing. The next morning, his evening suit having been brushed and transferred to the "auto" by his valet, and his business suit having been dittoed and hung in his home dressing room, the busy man rises, dresses, breakfasts, enters his portable office and begins work at once—and so on ad infinitum.

The bicycle pump illustrated here is designed to be fixed on each wheel, remaining inactive until the tire begins to deflate, either from a puncture or through the minute holes which sometimes render a tire useless because there is no way to repair them at all. To fit this pump on a bicycle wheel only requires a few minutes, and it is always ready to work as soon as the air pressure inside the tire decreases beyond a fixed limit. A collar is attached to the hub by screws, to support the ends of the rods which carry the pump cylinder. The piston rod is forced toward the hub by an external spring, which receives the force of the plunger stroke. When the air pressure is decreased to a certain point, the spring forces the plunger down at each stroke of the pump, driving air into the tire until the resistance becomes greater than the strength of the spring again. The plunger is operated by an eccentric cam attached to the frame at one end of the hub. The inventor of this pump is Albert L. Crandall, of Oaks Corners, N.Y.



PUMP TO KEEP PUNCTURED TIRE INFLATED.

A Brooklyn, N. Y. concern is manufacturing a self-propelled chemical fire engine, for which a speed of fifty miles an hour is claimed. This machine is designed to accommodate a crew of four men, and resembles in frame construction two tandems coupled, and, with a long rear extension of the frame to accommodate the fire extinguishing apparatus and the motor, which is of the gasoline type.

There is an almost entire absence of odor and the exhaust is so muffled as to be unappreciable. Carbon dioxide gas is used as an extinguisher.

Should a mishap occur to the motor or to either of the chains of the double tandem, the other chain will carry the engine to the scene of the fire, so that the chance of additional fire damage as a result of delay is reduced to a minimum.

A very ingenious bicycle track has been newly invented by two Southerners. While not a circle, nor an oval, nor yet kite-shaped, it has neither beginning nor end, and the arrangement of it is such that a rider may travel on it for an infinite distance without ever encountering another bicycler coming in the other direction.

One advantage of this style of track, a diagram of which is shown herewith, is that a long stretch of bicycle path is condensed into a very small space. At the same time a continual rotary movement in one direction is avoided, thus preventing dizziness.

As will be observed from the diagram, the rider moves in steadily decreasing curves towards the center, and then returns over increasing curves until he reaches the outer termination of the track. The word termination, however, is a misnomer, because a loop at that point carries the bicycle back to the place of starting.

The offer of the German Emperor of a prize of $20,000 for the most serviceable armored motor vehicle, equipped for actual fighting "at the front," resulted in the designing by an American company of a motor car for which the following claims are made. The car is of 40 horse-power, sheathed with armor and carrying two or more rapid-fire machine guns. It is capable of traveling at a rate of 20 miles an hour over ordinary roads with its equipment of armor guns, 10,000 rounds of ammunition and three men aboard. Owing to the liability of puncture, pneumatic tires are dispensed with, large rubber cushion tires being substituted. The vehicle will be able to travel over plowed fields and rocky ground at a fair rate of speed.

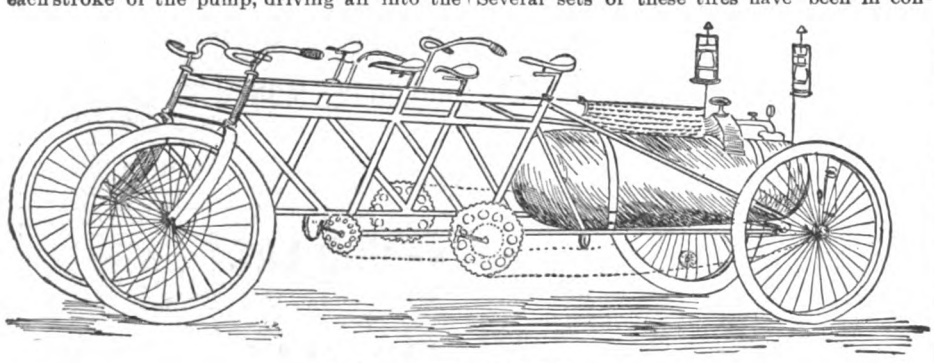
The vehicle will be in effect a moving fort, and, on account of its mobility, much more serviceable than an armored train running on rails. Some other advantages of the vehicle are that, in reconnoitering it can approach much nearer the enemy's lines than can cavalry.

When approaching an entrenched enemy it can be kept on the move while discharging its guns, thus offering a very poor target to artillery and rifle fire.

In actual conflict this automobile fort will have an armored motor tender, carrying reserve ammunition and stores. A battery of vehicles of this character would prove quite formidable in operations against an enemy, whether in the open or entrenched; they could hold their own on long flanking marches in the enemy's country, and by means of a windlass and two thousand yards of steel wire rope which each will carry, could be worked by their own power up very steep declivities and down again without much trouble; they could give valuable assistance in mounting big guns on high ground that horses could hardly climb—their forty horse power directed wholly to the moving of a big gun would get it in position in a fraction of the time required by an equal number of horses, and without exposing horses and men to the effects of a galling fire. Had such a vehicle been on the field at the battle of Tugela River, several of Buller's guns would not now be turned against him. Where men and horses found it impossible to live, one such machine as the American inventor has designed could safely go, and one by one could have withdrawn the precious guns to a place of safety.

The fuel capacity of this warlike vehicle will give it a traveling radius of from one hundred and fifty to two hundred miles, and it is predicted that a battery of six of them could do much more effective work than a large cavalry force could travel, indeed where mounted soldiers would be practically useless.

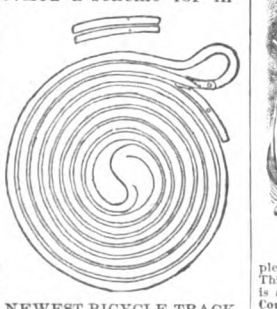
Letters patent have recently been issued to Robert J. Mitchell, of Waterfoot, England, for a tire made of solid felt, so hardened and milled as to be impervious to water, and combining long life with resiliency and elasticity. Several sets of these tires have been in constant use for some time, and they have given excellent service.



AUTO-CHEMICAL FIRE ENGINE.

The Russian War Department has been experimenting with freight automobiles, either steam or gasoline, and made a proposition that if any manufacturer would ship two such vehicles to St. Petersburg by the end of June, the department will pay the freight and duty on both, purchase the one best suited for its purpose and return the other. We have not heard the result.

A Westerner has devised a scheme for infallibly detecting the point of puncture in deflated automobile and bicycle tires. An ammoniacal solution is forced through the valve, and a chemically prepared white cloth is passed over the outer surface of the tire. When the cloth passes over the puncture the escaping ether of the ammonia causes the cloth to turn blue at that point—and there you are.



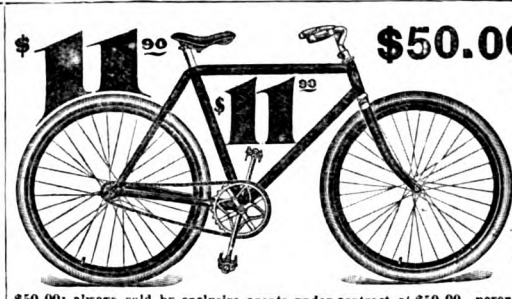
NEWEST BICYCLE TRACK.

An American automobile manufacturer has accepted an order from an English nobleman to build him a self-propelled vehicle which is capable of covering 60 miles an hour over good roads. Steam will be the motive power, and the contract price is said to be $8000. The expert has figured it out and in order to fulfill the terms of the agreement the motor must be of 36 horse-power.

The Chinese Minister to the United States is having built, along lines planned by himself, a gorgeous automobile of the phaeton type, Oriental yellow and the velvet upholstering will be of the same hue.

Washington will be the first city in this country to have a horseless and trackless car line. The American Autocarette Company, incorporated a short time ago, with a capital of $200,000 will shortly place on the streets of the national capital a number of vehicles similar in many respects to a street car, but smaller, having accommodations for 20 passengers each. They will be electrics, run on the storage battery system, with powerful motors and equipped with solid rubber tires. For the present a trunk line running the length of the city will be established, but later, as additional carettes are secured, intersecting cross lines will be put in operation. The regular street car fare, five cents, will be charged. Regular lines of automobile coaches are at present running in New York and Chicago and Boston but they are on the 'bus order, and nowise resemble a street car in appearance.

The Banker brothers, Pittsburg's famous racing men, have designed a "trailer," which can be attached to any three or four-wheeled motorcycle. This attachment is not only a great convenience in adding to the accommodations of the vehicle, but the occupant of the trailer can "work his passage" by assisting the motor in climbing stiff grades. The wheel hub is fitted with coaster and brake for use under normal conditions.



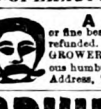
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WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



THE request from one of our readers of Passaic, N. J., for something unique for presents to students—such as the little book mark which appeared in these columns sometime ago—is a hard one to fill, but we hope next month to be able to give something that will be suitable for modest Christmas gifts, and it is possible we may find something in the same line as the book mark referred to.

We have had requests for suggestions for winter window gardens. It is possible in this age of cheap seeds and plants for any one who cares to do so to have a winter window garden, if one is willing to give a little time and thought to the matter. Given a sunny window and a little intelligent care, and some plants will grow almost as readily in the window as out of doors. Other plants will not thrive in the window, and it is useless to attempt to make them do so. It is a waste of time to undertake to grow the violet, sweet pea or the pansy in the ordinary window. But the list of plants that will grow in the window is so long and so satisfactory that one can well afford to give up the flowers I have named.

It is easy to get good plants from seeds, from bulbs and from cuttings that some of your friends may be willing to give you. The kind of plants selected must depend largely upon the situation of your window. It will be of no use for you to undertake to grow nasturtiums in a window in which there is scarcely any sunlight, or in a room in which the temperature is kept above 70 degrees all of the time. There are plants that require but little sunshine, and others particularly adapted to a warm room.

If I were going to undertake the culture of plants in the house, I would first provide myself with proper soil. A potting soil adapted to nearly all plants has in it certain proportions of sand, leaf-mould, manure and ordinary garden soil, or soil from old sods. The city dweller living in a flat or in a house without any ground around it will find it best to go to a florist and buy potting soil which is very inexpensive. Enough for a dozen or more plants can be had for twenty-five cents. If one is to prepare one's soil, take equal parts of garden soil, leaf-mould, clean sand and thoroughly rotted cow manure and mix them well together. The preparation of one's own leaf-mould requires a long time, and it does not pay to undertake it for a small number of plants. Go to the woods and get it in the form of rotted leaves under the trees. Mix these four ingredients together, and you will have a soil in which almost any plant or flower seed will grow.

Geraniums are about as satisfactory a house plant as one can grow. They are so easy of cultivation, the plant itself is handsome and the flowers of well cared for plants are abundant and beautiful. The Souvenir de Mirande is one of the best of the winter bloomers. It has no superior and I know of but one other that equals it in beauty and in profusion of bloom, and that is the Mrs. Vick. Single geraniums are better than the double varieties for the window garden. They bloom more profusely and the bloom is more likely to be perfect.

Do not, however, in your selection of plants of any kind make the mistake of buying plants in full bloom, or of taking up plants that have bloomed all summer in the expectation of having them bloom right along all winter. They will not do it. All plants need a season of rest. The perpetual bloomer is almost unknown outside of the tropics. If there are geraniums now growing in your garden, take cuttings from them and root them in common sand. Break off the slips, or cuttings, sink these in the sand to the depth of about an inch, wet the sand thoroughly and set it in a light and sunny place. The sand should then be kept constantly moist. Thus treated, geraniums, fuschias, coleus and many other kinds of cuttings will throw out roots; after they have done so, pot them in four or five inch pots and set them in a partially shaded place until the roots have taken hold in the soil. It does not injure a well-grown plant to take cuttings from it. Beside the geraniums named, the Mrs. Moore, Bridesmaid, Jean Sisley and Sunshine are all admirably adapted to the winter window garden. All are of the single variety. If you decidedly prefer the double geraniums, none are better for the window garden than the Amie Host and Pocahontas.

The Speciosa is about the only variety of fuschia that can be depended upon to bloom in the winter months. All other kinds are distinctively summer bloomers. The Speciosa is quite a free bloomer, but its flowers are smaller than those of other fuschias.

The abutilon is easily grown in the house by amateurs, and it is sure to give pleasure. Boule de Neige is a pure white variety. Golden Fleece is a light yellow and Crusader is a glowing crimson. But one of the finest of all of the abutilons is the Souvenir de Bonn. It has very beautiful foliage, its leaves being a light green edged and veined with white. It is a free bloomer and a most satisfactory plant in every way.

I would not advise the amateur to undertake the cultivation of roses in the window garden. The rose requires a good many conditions almost impossible to secure in the house, and only the experienced flower grower can hope to succeed with it. The atmosphere of the ordinary living room lacks the moisture required by the rose. It is, moreover, a plant that every sort of insect marks for its own, and it is usually a disappointment as a house plant. If you want to "try your luck" with the rose you will be as likely to succeed with the Hermosa as with any other variety.

Many bulbous plants are admirably adapted to house culture. Among them none are prettier or more readily grown than the freesia, a very pretty cream white flower with the most delicate and delicious fragrance. Bulbs of the freesia should be potted very soon. Hyacinths, narcissus and crocus are easier to grow in the house than the tulip. Pot the bulbs any time from September to November; water well and set the pots away in some dark and cool place until the green points of the leaves show above the soil. This may not be for six or eight weeks. When it does occur bring the pots into the sunlight and keep them in rather a low temperature remembering that bulbous plants require a good deal of moisture both in the soil and atmosphere. Lack of moisture and overheated rooms have often been the cause of failure with bulbous plants.

Begonias of certain varieties are admirably adapted to house culture. Among the best are Bruanti, Insignis, and Sandersoni, a variety having coral-like flowers and beautiful foliage.

It is not so easy to succeed with ferns although there are several kinds well adapted to house culture. The best and most easily grown is the variety known as the sword fern. It does best in partial shade and it is a very graceful and satisfactory plant. Palms and rubber trees do well in the ordinary living room, but most amateurs prefer flowering plants.

If your rooms must be kept hot and dry you can grow the cactus in them, and while it has little beauty as a plant its flowers are often striking and beautiful.

Several varieties of coleus are fine for window gardens, and a pot or two of the brightest-hued kinds will give continual brightness to your window garden. They are very easily grown and will thrive under conditions that would be the death of some other plants.

If you want a vine to run around your window nothing will grow more freely than German Ivy and the Maderia vine. Do not try smilax. It will not do well outside the greenhouse. The common morning-glory does well in a cool room. The bloom will be smaller and less profuse than when the plant is grown out of doors, but the flowers are very pretty and dainty. Callas are favorites with many, and they are easily grown in a warm room if the soil is kept moist. Those who have tried it say that a spoonful of castor oil dug into the soil once in two or three weeks is a powerful stimulant to the calla. Seeds of annuals like nasturtiums, petunias, portulacca, alyssum and morning-glory may be sown in the fall, and will make fine young plants for transferring to the window garden later.

Proper potting of all plants is of the first importance. Do not use large pots or you will get more foliage than bloom. First put a few pebbles or pieces of broken pot to secure drainage. Over this put a little moss or something similar to keep the soil above the pebbles. Put in an inch or two of soil and set the plant in the center, add soil pressing it firmly around the plant until the pot is full to within a half an inch of the top. This will keep the water from running off. Keep the pots in the shade until the plants show signs of having taken root.

Water your plants properly. Many failures result from too much or too little water. It may be well to seek advice of your friends who have had experience with plants like those you propose to cultivate. Never allow the soil to become dry and baked in the pot. The cultivation of a great variety of beautiful plants is possible if one is only patient and persevering and intelligent in the care of them. No great skill or superior wisdom is required, and the outlay of money need not be at all large. It will be an advantage for you to take a good floral magazine, and the best of these magazines are very inexpensive.



Convenient to hang beside the dressing table, and quite ornamental as well, is a holder for the curling iron, made from ribbon.

Select a ribbon three inches wide and five-eighths of a yard long. Cut off twelve inches and fold across. Overhand the edges together, leaving the top open, and feather-stitch the front with silk of the same shade.

Cut a piece of black flannel a little narrower and two inches shorter than the remaining piece of ribbon. Pink the edge and bottom of the flannel and hem the upper straight edge under the upper edge of the ribbon. Fringe the lower edge of the ribbon, and sew the top to the back of the ribbon pocket first made, about an inch above the bottom.

Select a brass ring three-quarters of an inch in diameter, and hem the open top of the ribbon pocket over the ring.

This will gather the ribbon, and yet will keep the top open ready to receive the curling iron. Suspend all by a narrow ribbon. The flannel is of course used to wipe the iron upon after heating.

Mrs. Darrow of Minneapolis, who has given us many good hints in the past, now contributes the following directions for making rugs from pieces of silk. She says:

"The ideal house has bare hard wood floors and a great many rugs. All cannot have the hard polished floors but all might have rugs. Some of the work of rug making may be taken in the hands as easily as a bit of crochet work.

"For instance, those made of silk pieces. You will be surprised at the amount you can collect—old silk dresses, silk trimmings, neck ties, parasols, colored umbrellas, faded ribbons. You can use faded pieces; if your pieces are badly soiled clean with benzine; have a large box. The prettiest are made hit and miss. To make it even the pieces should all be cut and well mixed. Cut the pieces the same size unless if very thin you can cut a little wider as they will not fill up as the heavy ones do.

"Cut a paper for a pattern, 2 inches long and 7-8 of an inch wide. Cut all your pieces from this pattern when well mixed. Use macrame cord of a dark color and bone needles with a nob on one end. The needles are 10 inches long and half an inch around. Make 25 stitches as for garter stitch, slip off first stitch, put one of the silk pieces between the first and second stitch, knit second stitch, put the end of silk that is next to you over between second and third stitch, knit third stitch, repeat across. The ends will be all on the same side. Next row knit across plain with the cord. Next row knit as the first, putting in silk. You put in silk pieces every other row and slip off first stitch every time. Make rug as large as you can find pieces, one yard wide and two yards long makes a handsome one. Sew the strips together on wrong side; If you have your colors well mixed you can't tell from the right side where it is put together. It will wear much longer if cotton wadding is put on wrong side and than brown heavy cambric, catching on wrong side a few times to hold cotton in place. Sew fringe at both ends. Worsted pieces can be used the same way."



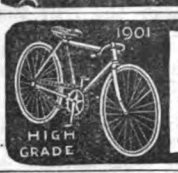
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Dr. W. H. May, the famous physician and philanthropist, will send a bottle of his wonderful medicine free, in plain package, to all who are suffering from epileptic fits, spasms, spells, falling sickness or St. Vitus' dance. It has cured thousands of almost hopeless cases. All you have to do to get the medicine is to say that you saw this in COMFORT and give your full name, age, post office address as well as address of nearest express office. This medicine will relieve immediately and if you want a free treatment write at once to W. H. May, M. D., 94 Pine St., New York City.

EVERYBODY WEARS COLLAR BUTTONS.

Send us only 5c. and we send you **Six** Gold Plated lever collar buttons, either for Gentlemen or Ladies. This can only be done to introduce our great catalogue of Novelties. **5 cents for 6.** Write to-day to COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

THE NATURAL BODY BRACE



CURES

Female Troubles, Stooping Posture, Inflammations, Internal Pains, Tired Feeling, Backache, Weak Lungs, Nervousness.

TRIAL FREE.

It will make you comfortable, buoyant, happy—give you ability to work and enjoy life. It is simple, wholly external, adjustable to any figure. Worn with or without corset.



We have over 15,000 letters like this:

Chandler, Okla., July 27, 1899.

Your Brace did all you said about it and more for me. It has saved me a big doctor's bill and brought me good health, which I had not had before in 25 years. My troubles were dropsy, headache, lung disease, stomach and other ills to which women are subject. MRS. L. B. DICKINSON.

Write today for particulars and illustrated book mailed free in plain sealed envelope. Address The Natural Body Brace Co., Box 27, Salina, Kansas. Every woman should have this Brace.

WATCH AND CHAIN FOR ONE DAY'S WORK.



Boys and Girls can get a Nickel-Plated Watch, also a Chain and Charm for selling 1½ doz. Packages of Bluine at 10 cents each. Send your full address by return mail and we will forward the Bluine, post-paid, and a large Premium List. No money required. BLUINE CO. Box 418, Concord Junction, Mass.



SEND NO MONEY

if you live within 700 miles of Chicago, (if further send $1.00), cut this ad out and send to us, and we will send you this BIG HEATING STOVE by freight, C. O. D., subject to examination. You can examine it at your freight depot, and if found perfectly satisfactory, exactly as represented, one of the handsomest heating stoves you ever saw and equal to heaters that retail at $15.00, pay the freight agent our Special Offer Price, $9.85 and freight charges, ($8.85 and charges if $1.00 is sent with order). The stove weighs 175 pounds and the freight will average 50 to 75 cents for each 500 miles.

OUR $9.85 ACME OAK HEATER burns anything; wood, hard coal, soft coal, coke or cobs; greatly improved for this season, latest style for 1900. A BIG HEATER, 3 feet 8 inches high, 22¾ x 22¾ inches on bottom, 16-inch fire pot, 6-inch pipe, mounted with 18-gauge smooth steel draw, heavy cast iron fire pot, has shaking and dumping center grate for coal, double circular wood grate, constructed so the fire can be kept under complete control; large ash pan, large feed doors; ash pit doors swing on double hinge, check drafts on collar and feed doors. Beautifully finished, fancy nickel mountings and ornamentations, highly polished and heavily nickel plated foot rails, nickel name plate, top ring, hinge pins and knobs; heavy nickel bands and mountings, fancy nickel plated and ornamented top urn. Every stove covered by a BINDING GUARANTEE and safe delivery guaranteed. Made from the best quality of heavy sheet steel, pig iron and nickel, positively the handsomest, best burning, best heating, most economical and durable Big Parlor Heater made. If you don't find this stove the equal of those sold at double the price, return it to us at our expense and we will return any money sent us. ORDER TODAY. Write for free Stove Catalogue.

Address, SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO., CHICAGO.

FREE

WE GIVE AWAY FREE one rolled gold solitaire Puritan rose diamond ring, solid-gold pattern, for selling 20 packages Garfield Pure Pepain Gum among friends at 5 cents a package. Send full name; we mail gum. When sold send money; we will mail ring; few can tell from GENUINE DIAMOND Unsold gum taken back. Write for catalogue of 200 premiums. GARFIELD GUM CO., 117, MEADVILLE, PA.

DEAFNESS CURED OR NO PAY

C. H. ROWAN, MILWAUKEE, WISC.

KOIN MONEY.

It Won't Turn Silver to Gold, nor Turn Gold to Silver; but it Will Coin Dollars for You. Agents Wanted.

The Electro Polishing Cloth, a wonderful prepared cloth that gives electric brightness and lustre to every metal it touches. Without any powders or paste, simply by rubbing with this cloth, a brilliant lasting polish will be placed on Tableware, Gold, Silver, Nickel, Copper, Plated ware, Bicycles, Glass, etc. Bright, absolutely clean, and perfectly free from corrosive tarnish or dirt and will last. The Greatest Revolution in the Household. Takes the place of all Polishes, Powders, Pastes, Liquids and also Chamois Skins at less than one-quarter the cost. It is especially adapted for cleaning and polishing Metal or Glass Tableware.



Will Not Injure the Most Delicate Surface. It does not scratch! It works Wonders! and a child can use it! Will clean and polish just as well when black as when new. No matter how soiled the "cloth" may become, the black will not rub off and soil the hands. Can be used until entirely worn out. A moist portion will clean and a dry portion polish until the cloth is worn threadbare. Directions with every cloth. Simple and sure. Ready, Quick, Clean, Economical. The Greatest Invention of the Century.

A Bargain Offer to All. We want 20,000 agents to sell these cloths at fairs, campaign meetings, on the street, from house to house, everywhere. You can make $100 a month profit, young and old, both sexes. Sells like greased lightning. One sample cloth full size, sent free to anyone who will send only 10 cents for agents' prices and a paid three month's trial subscription to our charming family paper. The greatest introduction offer ever made; we will return money if not perfectly satisfied.

SUNSHINE, BOX 551, AUGUSTA, MAINE.



144 DINNER SET PIECE AND 48 PIECES SILVERWARE FREE

A rare chance. No deception, we speak nothing but the truth. You can get a full size decorated breakfast, dinner or tea set (144 pieces) & 12 silver plated knives, 12 forks, 12 tea spoons & 12 table spoons for selling our Remedies. We have a reputation for square & honest dealing & to prove it, every honest person who sells 6 boxes of our Vegetable Pills at 25 cts. a box, a positive cure for constipation, indigestion & torpid liver, will receive our generous offer of a 144 piece decorated set & 48 pieces of silver plated table ware with a beautiful Butter knife, Sugar Spoon & Salt & Pepper set which we give absolutely free for selling the 6 boxes of Pills. Don't send a cent, order to-day & we send Pills by mail, when sold send us the $1.50 & we guarantee if you comply with our offer we shall send you with the Butter knife, Sugar Spoon & Salt & Pepper set, the 12 Knives, 12 Forks, 12 Table Spoons, 12 Tea Spoons & 144 piece decorated Set will be given absolutely free. We are an old reliable concern, & guarantee the dishes & silverware full size for family use. Address L. OETTNER, Supt., Dept. B, 30 W. 13TH ST., N. Y. CITY.

A Silken Shower from a Necktie Factory.

A Big Lot of Real Silk and Plush Also Stamped Satin

REMNANTS FOR CRAZY PATCHWORK.



ART in needle work is on the advance. We know the ladies delight in odd pieces of silk and satin—"CRAZY QUILT" making is again VERY POPULAR. We are sure we have a bargain that all ladies will now delight in. Bright, handsome, odd-shaped, and pretty colored goods accumulate very fast at all NECKTIE FACTORIES; the styles were never so bright and pretty as they have been the past season and they are now burdened with remnants of many RICH GOODS. We have thousands of pieces of silk and satin on hand which we are going to give you a big trade on. People at a distance have hard times getting the right assortment to put into sofa-pillows, quilts, etc., and we can help you out now. We are going to dispose of this immense lot RIGHT OFF. Our packages contain from 98 to 168 pieces of the best quality assorted goods, and we want to get a lot introduced into every home; then you can order as you like for your friends, and MAKE MONEY doing our work and helping yourself also. Remember these pieces are carefully trimmed, and especially adapted to all sorts of fancy, art, and needle work. Many ladies sell tidies, fancy pillows, etc., at a great price made from these remnants. Order one sample lot now for only 25c. It would cost many dollars bought at a store.

Grand Offer: If you order our great assorted lot AT ONCE, we will give you several rich, bright and beautiful **stamped satin pieces;** each piece contains nine square inches and being stamped **by hand** with a graceful design for embroidery, is a great bargain.

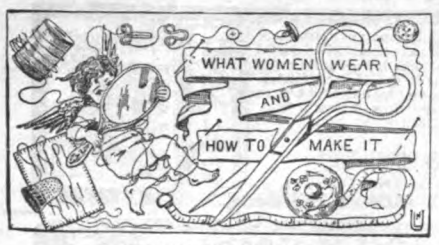
Five Skeins Embroidery Silks Free. *In order to work your stamped satin and other pieces we also send absolutely FREE, five skeins of elegant embroidery silk, all different bright colors. This silk is worth nearly the price we ask for the remnants; but we know if you ORDER ONE lot we will sell many in your locality, so make this liberal offer besides giving you a large and elegant piece of* **Plush** *containing 36 square inches.*

BEST WAY. We send ONE of the above complete assorted lots FREE to all who send 25 cents for 6 months' subscription to "COMFORT" the best Home Monthly now published, and in order to get you to advertise "COMFORT" and this big bargain to your friends and neighbors we will send **free** with each package our great book, **With Eight Full-Page Illustrations,** for ornamenting the seams of **Crazy Patchwork,** or for other ornamental work where Fancy Stitches are used it has no equal. It shows how pieces for patchwork may be put together to get the **best effect,** how to cover up seams with fancy stitches, **how to join edges, etc.**

The book illustrates over one hundred and fifty of these besides **directions** for taking **ART EMBROIDERY STITCHES,** comprising the **Outline and Kensington Stitch, Arrasene and Chenille Embroidery, Ribbon Work, Plush or Tufted Stitch, etc. It also tells how to do Kensington Painting.**

Remember we send one big lot (over 100 pieces) Silk Remnants, the assorted stamped satin piece **5 Skeins** *Embroidery silk; 36 square inches plush, and a great 15c. book on embroidery together with 6 months' subscription to "COMFORT," all for only 25 cents. Three lots and one year's subscription, 65 cents; five lots $1.00. Address,*

COMFORT, Silk Dept. B, Augusta, Maine.



WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.

THE very latest cry is the waist buttoned at the back, and they are frequently made of hemstitched silk or linen, tucks being the next in favor. The mode is so girlish it is sure to be the most popular new idea in bodices. One of the season's novelties is the sashes worn with dainty frocks. They are of the new soft ribbons of satin taffeta or satin mousseline, wide, and always of two or three of the pastel shades in combination. Some one color of the ribbon is twisted around the waist once and tied in the back with two ends, one long and one short and a rosette in which the different shades are combined. When but two colors are used, the sash is tied with one long end, and a single loop reaching almost to the hem of the gown. Nothing more satisfactory, in the way of dress garniture has been in vogue than the blending of these beautiful pastel tints in dainty sashes. These soft satin ribbons are now manufactured in all the deeper tones as well as pastel.

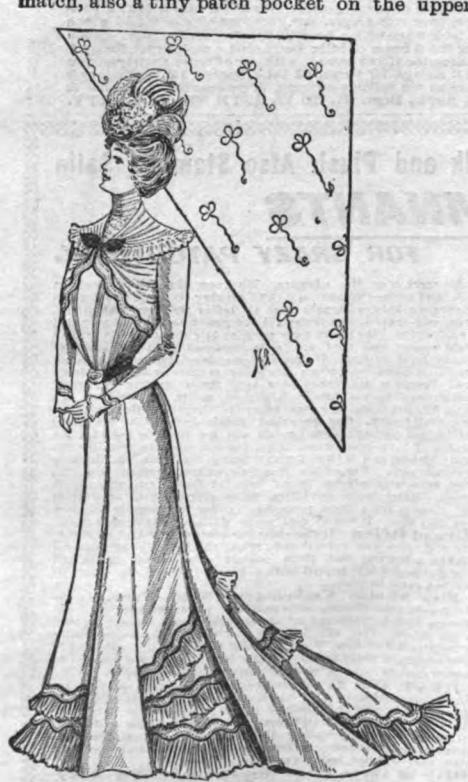


Short walking skirts are even more in evidence than seemed probable a month ago. The rainy day skirt has been worn in Paris and now French modistes are bringing out a short skirt that will be sent over to New York this fall with the cachet of French approval and find itself the rage for street wear and will be worn by the society and business woman alike. This new skirt is cut circular fashion. It escapes the ground two inches and has a turned-in plait at the back and finished with a variety of stitching at the bottom. In league with short skirts are the obnoxious high-heeled, narrow-toed walking shoes. It seems almost inconceivable that a sensible fashion will bring in its trail one so wholly absurd and unbeautiful. But already the fall shoes are seen with tilting little heels and pointed toes. When the feminine foot is visible vanity always creeps into footgear, and yet the short skirt is hailed as a symbol of woman's increasing intelligence.



An inexpensive and very stylish evening cape is made up in pale tan cloth, three-quarters length and lined with white satin. The high collar is lined with ruched chiffon which forms a large bow with ends in front.

Dark blue serges and cheviots are once more before our eyes and welcomed like old and well-tried friends. No color is more suitable and becoming during the late autumn. An effective model for a good figure has a three-piece skirt with a plain front breadth and on either side of this the side pieces are laid in three two-inch pleats over the hips, the pleats extending nearly to the foot of the skirt. At the back is an inverted pleat—the short jaunty coat is plain and well-fitted, with a slightly bloused, double-breasted front fastened with eight large silver buttons—the revers and collar are coat shape and made of white broadcloth with rows of blue silk—there are turn-back cuffs and a belt to match, also a tiny patch pocket on the upper



left-hand side with top band of cloth matching collar. With this is worn a vest and standing collar of white pique.

Another pretty model for a blue serge has a seven gored skirt each gore ending in a wide pleat at the foot—the short coat has rounded fronts and back to match falling about three inches below the waistline. A square collar and long revers of white taffeta embroidered in tiny checks are the finishing touches. The waist is of white taffeta with box-pleat, the ends of the cravat and cuffs embroidered to match revers.

The bell sleeves are very fetching in the new fall models for street wear. Hardly an outside coat or jacket but boasts of the bell sleeve, in an exaggerated form, or the frill Bishop sleeve with a wide loose cuff.

The blouse is with us again as an outside wrap and also in suit form, generally made still more smart by the addition of one or two tiny capes fitted over the shoulders.

A dainty patent leather belt for young women is made with a tiny pointed piece in front, giving the pointed, long-waisted effect so much liked just now. It opens a trifle at one side and has a strap buckle to set off the other side. The newest handkerchiefs show narrow tinted borders and initials.

The shops are full of the most beautiful designs in ribbons which tends to prove that they are to be more fashionable than ever. Some of them display brocaded and flowered designs in three or four shadings artistically blended together. Soft ribbons are preferred to heavy, stiff ones, the reason for this being they can so much more easily be drawn closely to the figure in the draped belts that are seen under the boleros, and also because they tie in such graceful bows. Many of the made sashes are finished with fringes, either the knotted silk fringe or the chenille sort, the latter only being used on heavy ribbons. This chenille fringe is to be a feature of our winter dress trimming, being applied lavishly on gowns of light cloth, velvet, or silk. The favorite style is about two inches long without a heading.



Bows in the hair add greatly to the smartness of our every coiffure, and may be worn either at the side or directly in front. They are made of twisted velvet or satin ribbon and are tied in small bowknots or two short loops with pointed ends. These bows are always made of black which is a sharp contrast to the rage for color of last year.

Long coats and short coats for children and Misses show the same tendency toward the picturesque in sleeves and shoulder capes—these latter very often of panne velvet, while still more often the revers and cuffs are made of this material heavily stitched.

Close-fitting effects over the shoulders will be fashionable for some time to come while the straight rows and long line is absolutely necessary to a fashionable figure. Bands of passementerie will be lavishly used on winter gowns. They are put on so that they apparently start from the shoulder, then curve down to a point in the front of the waist. One very odd line is given by carrying the material across the top of the sleeve so as to meet the first line of embroidery on the waist, so that the line where the sleeve meets the waist at the armhole is hardly visible. This intensifies the sloping shoulder effect.

MANY HOMES SUPPORTED.

The advertisement of The Standard Manfg. Co., of New York, appears on another page and is well worth reading by those who are looking for employment. This Company has perfected a process of making different styles of portraits and art novelties, which is easily understood by any person in a short time, and as a result a business may be built up which will yield a good income. The company has enabled many people to have home employment which often has been a support. They are well recommended. It will be a benefit to write to them.

THE MIGHTY HEALER.

Dr. J. M. Peebles, the Great Vital and Magnetic Healer, Baffles Disease and Cures So-called "Incurable Diseases."

CURED IN THE PRIVACY OF YOUR HOME.

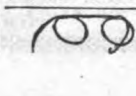
Health, happiness and contentment, the greatest trinity in life, gained through psychic force. The new Vital and Magnetic Healing, originated by Dr. J. M. Peebles, the great scientist of Battle Creek, Mich., who through a combination of psychic and physical treatment, has rendered such remarkable cures that he has astounded the medical profession on two continents, and made his name a household word. Mrs. J. W. Henderson, of St. Johns, Washington, who suffered for years with pain in the ovaries and uterine weakness, was entirely cured by the Peebles' treatment. Mrs. C. Harris, Marionville, Pa., says she cannot express too much gratitude for the results received through Dr. Peebles' treatment. She suffered for years from falling of the womb. Francis Wavering, Seattle, Washington, suffered for twenty years with a severe case of Catarrh; completely cured through the psychic treatment. Geo. H. Weeks, 53 Minerva St., Cleveland, O., sends his heartfelt thanks for restoration of health after suffering from nervous prostration and insomnia; says he now enjoys restfulness and sleeps soundly every night. Mrs. Mary A. Clair, Lexington, Ky., after thirty years continual suffering from epilepsy and trying to be cured by eminent physicians, writes: "Two months of your treatment has made earth almost heaven to me." Thousands of testimonials have been received, which absolutely prove this new science to be the greatest curing power of the age. You are cured in the privacy of your home through what is known as the "Home Treatment," which makes distance no bar. Send your name, address and leading symptom to Dr. J. M. Peebles, and through his occult power, he will diagnose your case absolutely free; also, he will send you advice and booklets which should be in the hands of every man and woman who prize health and happiness. This is absolutely free to those addressing Dr. J. M. Peebles, Battle Creek, Mich.



Dr. J. M. Peebles.

45 PIECES SHEET MUSIC GIVEN AWAY in bound form with a three months' subscription to introduce our Paper and Premium List in every home. Send **10 cents** for mailing expenses.
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PAYS to write for our 260-page free book. Tells how men with small capital can make money with a **Magic Lantern or Stereopticon.**
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A Swell $5.00 Fall and Winter Trimmed HAT
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FOR
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Be Stylish. Save Money.

Your Money Back If You Want It
No. 1908—Black felt cloth made hat with straight brim, edge bound in black velvet. At left side are two long black coque plumes, and brought around the crown and finishing in knotted effect in front, is trimming of black felt cloth edged in black velvet. Bandeau is trimmed in rosette of felt cloth.

Only $1.98 Write for free fall and winter catalogue for 1900-1901.

For 25 cents extra we prepay express charges and deliver any trimmed hat safely packed in patent metal bound boxes to your nearest express office in the United States.

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$20 WATCH in appearance, Solid Gold Pattern, Engraving with extra 14k Gold plate. Fine Am. Lever Movement accurately regulated and sold with a Positive **20 Year Guarantee.** Sent C. O. D., allowing full examination. Pay agent $2.00 and express charges. If cash is sent with order, we give a fine Gold Plated Chain worth $1.00 Free, or send order for 5 watches and we give one free.
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FREE This beautiful Turquoise or Lovers' Knot Bangle Ring, warranted three years, with initial engraved and a *premium* absolutely FREE. Send 10 cents to help pay postage. Catalogue *free*. The Shell Novelty Co. Dept. K 194 Broadway, N.Y. FREE

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FREE to BOYS and GIRLS We are giving away watches, cameras, solid gold rings, sporting goods, musical instruments & many other valuable premiums to boys & girls for selling 20 SILVER ALUMINUM THIMBLES at 10c. each; package gold eyed needles given FREE with each thimble. Every lady buys as soon as she sees it. **NO MONEY REQUIRED--WE TRUST YOU** Send us your name & address and we will send them postpaid with premium list and full instructions, when sold send us the money and we will send you the present you select. Address AGENTS SUPPLY CO. 75 to 81 Dearborn St., Dept. G, CHICAGO, ILL.
The above Firm is thoroughly reliable—Editor

LADIES to do piece work at their homes; we furnish all material and pay from $7 to $10 weekly; experience unnecessary. Send stamped envelope to ROYAL CO., Desk C, 34 Monroe St., Chicago.

WANTED AGENTS in every county to sell "Family Memorials;" good profits and steady work. Address, CAMPBELL & CO., 610 Plum St., Elgin, Ill.

LADIES WANTED to take up stamping at home We pay 10 cents an hour while learning. H. F. JONES, Dept. I, Brooklyn, N. Y.

FREE Rocker, Couch, Watch, Guitar, etc., for selling a few boxes of soap to your friends. DAWSON SOAP CO., Dept. 72, Chicago.

$5 A DAY is what L. B. PRATT, of Freedom, Neb., has made for 75 DAYS Selling Our Home Necessity, Outfit, etc. FREE. ORDWAY & CO., T. S. PEORIA, ILL.

CRAZY WORK SILK REMNANTS, enough for quilt, 25c. Large package handsome colors 10c. JERSEY SILK MILLS, Box 22, JERSEY CITY, N. J.

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When I say I cure Cancer, I do not mean merely to cure them for a time and then have them return again; I mean a permanent cure. I have cured the worst cases—those that were called hopeless. I cure Cancer without the aid of the surgeon's knife, and in a soothing and painless manner. Because others have failed is no reason why you should endanger your life by this malignant affliction. Send at once for full treatise and letter of advice FREE
DR. A. J. MILLER, ST. LOUIS, MO.

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SEND NO MONEY



If you are a customer of our house and live in Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, Wisconsin or Iowa; if in any other state east of the Rocky Mountains **SEND ONE DOLLAR** and we will send you this our **AMERICAN HOME UPRIGHT PARLOR GRAND PIANO** by freight C. O. D., subject to examination. You can examine it at your freight depot and if found perfectly satisfactory, exactly as represented, the grandest piano bargain ever shown in your section, and the equal of pianos retail dealers ask $250.00 to $300.00 for, then pay the railroad agent our **SPECIAL OFFER PRICE $98.50** and freight charges. Piano weighs 800 pounds and freight will average for 200 miles about $2.50; 500 miles, $5.00.

ONE YEAR'S FREE TRIAL. You can use any one of our pianos one year in your own home, and if at any time during the year you become dissatisfied from any cause whatever, you can return it to us at our expense of all freight and we will immediately RETURN YOUR MONEY.

25 YEAR'S GUARANTEE. Accompanying every piano is a written binding 25 YEARS' GUARANTEE, by the terms and conditions of which if any piece or part gives out by reason of defect in material or workmanship within 25 years, we will replace or repair it free of charge. WITH CARE THE PIANO WILL LAST A LIFETIME.

THIS $98.50 PIANO exactly as illustrated is full size, 4 feet 8 inches high; 5 feet 2 inches long; 2 feet 3 inches wide, and has a handsome case of Solid Quarter Sawed Oak or Mahogany finish as desired; very highly polished, beautifully paneled, carved and decorated, heavy handsomely turned trusses, has new continuous music desk, latest Boston fall board with continuous nickel plated hinges, nickel plated pedals and guards. ACTION is strictly high grade; SCALE full 7⅞ octaves, overstrung bass, double cap hammers; TONE, rich, sweet deep, mellow yet powerful.

WE SEND FREE WITH THIS PIANO AT $98.50 a Handsome Piano Stool and COMPLETE INSTRUCTION BOOK.

IF YOU HAVE A FRIEND in Chicago, please write him to come to our store and examine our $98.50 piano, and then write you if it is equal to any piano he can buy in this city for $250.00; JUST AS REPRESENTED and if he advises you to SEND FOR IT.

$98.50 barely covers the cost of material and labor with but our one small percentage of profit added, piano is made under our control in one of the best piano factories in America; made from finest selected materials by the most skilled mechanics AND YOU GET IT DIRECT AT FACTORY PRICE.

OUR FREE PIANO CATALOGUE plainly illustrates and tells all about them.

DON'T BUY A PIANO AT $150.00 TO $400.00 UNTIL YOU HAVE SEEN OUR $98.50 PIANO OR OUR FREE PIANO CATALOGUE. Address,

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AT $98.50, $110.00, $125.00 AND $155.00 we show a line of special HIGH GRADE PIANOS the equal of pianos that retail at $250.00 to $400.00.

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The Victoria Stamping Outfit.

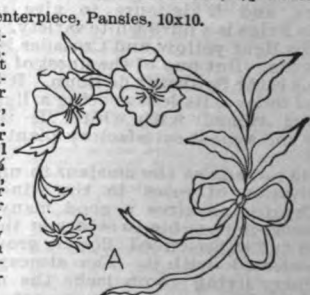
More Artistic Patterns for the Money than were ever Dreamed of.



It has been our special pleasure to select designs for this collection for our artistic friends. Illustration A shows a floral and ribbon design which can be used for almost anything the dainty worker has use for. The flowers are best executed in Kensington stitch, the ribbon may be either simple outline, outline filled in with feather, herring-bone or cat stitch, or, what is still more effective, the long and short stitch. Illustration B is a dainty little design for monograms or what-nots.

Note the sizes of the designs named below and the number of sheets of patterns in this outfit.

1 Very Handsome Centerpiece of Carnations, 17x17 inches.
1 Pretty Corner-piece of Pansies and Leaves, 6x6 inches.
1 Design of Strawberries and Leaves for Doily, 5½x6½.
1 Design Orchid and Leaves for Scarf Corner, 6½x10.
1 Clover Design for Doily.
1 Design for Baby's Bib, Rosebuds and word Baby, 4x4.
1 Design for Cheer Doily, 3½x6.
1 Design for Souvenir Case with Motto, 5½x6.
1 Design for Shoe Bag, 5x10.
1 Design for Shaving Bag with Motto, 6x6.
4 Fruit Designs for Fruit Plate Doilies, 3½x3½.
1 Design for Carving Cloth, 11½x15½.
1 Design for Tumbler Doily, 4x4.
1 Pretty Corner Design for Tea-cloth, Jewel Work, 9x9.
1 Design for Table Doily, 8x8.
1 Design for Water Bottle Doily, 6x6.
4 Designs for Butter Plate Doilies, 3½x3½.
1 Cut Work Doily Design, 5x5.
1 Very Pretty Design for Corner, Battenberg Work, 7x7.
1 Design for Border with Corner, 5x16.
1 Floral Corner Geranium, 6½x6½.
1 Design Water Lily for Doily.
1 Floral Wreath for Monogram or Handkerchief Case, 5x5.
1 Design for Tray Cloth, 7x15.
1 Design for Centerpiece, Maidenhair Ferns, 9½x9½.
1 Rosebud Doily, 7½x7½.
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FAMOUS VASES OF THE WORLD.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



DENGLER.

THESE are some very beautiful specimens which are composed of other materials than pottery, which deserve honorable mention and they will be considered in these papers.

It is not definitely known where or when the costly and remarkable Mantua vase was produced; but as its workmanship is of the most superior kind, so that it could only have been executed by a very great artist, several learned men have thought that it may have formed a part of the celebrated collection of vases which Mithridates, the great King of Pontus, the renowned enemy of Rome, is known to have formed from the finest works of the most skilled masters of Greece and Asia Minor. It is thought also that this vase may have come into Europe, in the first place, after Stratonice, the wife of Mithridates, surrendered a castle of the Bosphorus, which she had in her keeping, to the Roman, Pompey the Great, with the King's treasure and precious effects; on condition that if her son Xiphares fell into his hands he should be restored to her. Pompey accepted only such presents as would serve to ornament temples, vases being among the number.

Mithridates returned his wife's favor to Pompey by putting her son to death in her sight. But Mithridates kept whatever he had of greatest value in Coina, or the New City; but Pompey took it also and everything there, including memoirs which Mithridates had written of himself, and a list of the persons he had poisoned, two of his own sons being among the number. Pliny also tells us of the recipes for medicines, poison and their antidotes, which were found stored in urns and vases, and that their treasures were brought to Rome by Pompey and dedicated in the temples of the gods. All this could have happened, but its authentic history commences in the sixteenth century, when it was in the possession of the dukes of Mantua, by the name of which town it has ever since been distinguished.

When the city of Mantua was taken by the Austrian General Colato in 1630, the ducal palace was plundered, and among its treasures was this rare vase. The duke Lauenbury, seeing it in the hands of a common soldier who was ignorant of its great value, bought it of him for one hundred ducats. It passed from one owner to another into the possession of the duke of Brunswick-Bevern.

Later on, 1766, Charles I. of the house of Brunswick bought the vase from his cousin and removed it to his palace, where it remained until after the battle of Jena in 1806, when it was taken to England to save it from the French.

It was restored to the Brunswick Museum, but disappeared in 1830, and was neither seen nor heard of for forty years.

There lived in those regions a very eccentric person, who was the owner of many diamonds and other precious stones, and ceramic treasures of all kinds. Catalogues of his vast heritage have been published and the articles have been carefully described, and their values estimated.

This person was none other than Charles II, ex-duke of Brunswick, who, on account of the riots which followed his deposition, removed it from the Brunswick Museum to his own possession. This was known at the time, as a receipt in his own handwriting had been seen; but as the vase was never seen after the burning of the ducal palace in 1830, and as the late ex-duke Charles II (1840) never alluded to it when displaying his other precious articles, it was generally supposed to have been left behind him in his hurried flight from the vengeance of his infuriated subjects, and to have perished with many other works of art.



THE MANTUA VASE.

Antiquarians who knew of the vase deplored its loss for all those years.

The ex-duke Charles II finally went the way of all the earth, having bequeathed his treasures to the city of Geneva. While examining and cataloging these treasures, his executors came upon a vase made of silver, of rude shape and apparently of but trifling value. Its weight, however, was so much greater, compared to its size, that it attracted attention, and upon being opened it was found to contain the long-lost vase of Mantua.

This vase was cut from a single onyx, the most perfect to be seen, and probably the finest ever known in Europe. Its value would be difficult to define, for one hundred and fifty years ago, when works of art did not command such prices as they do now, it was valued in the inventory of the Duchess Sophia Elizabeth at one hundred and fifty thousand dollars.

There can be no doubt from its shape and ornaments but that it was destined for a *guttus*, a sort of pitcher used in sacrificial rites, from the spout of which oil, wine, or balsam was poured drop by drop on the neck of the victim, as a libation to the gods.

The cover, spout, handle and pedestal are of solid gold. The veining and shading of the onyx is so beautiful that it has been said, "Nature, and not art, produced this treasure."

From the hardness of the material it is easy to suppose that its execution must have occupied nearly the whole of the life of its creator, and was worth a king's ransom.

The height of the vase is six inches and three-quarters. It contains twelve figures and represents the "Feast of Ceres and Bacchus," and in the celebration of their mysterious rites it was probably once used.

Its antiquity has never been doubted, nor the fact that it is the work of one of the most eminent artists of ancient Greece; of one of those masters whose name and history alike have perished, but who will live eternally in their works, defying imitation.



THE BRYANT VASE.

As our own country is rich in works of art some of its finest vases will be given a place also. The Bryant vase was wrought in silver and was presented to the honored poet, William Cullen Bryant by his admiring friends and countrymen on his eightieth birthday.

Perhaps no single object in the whole American department in the main building of the Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia in 1876, attracted more attention than this artistic testimonial to the poet. It was designed by one of the chief artists of Tiffany & Company of New York, by whom it was made.

"At eighty," writes one who knew the poet well, "there was nothing old about him. His senses were perfect; his eyes needed no glasses; his hearing was extremely fine. Regular in all his habits, he retained his youth to the last."

The ornamentation of the vase is intended to symbolize Bryant's life through the medium of classic form, and is drawn from nature and suggested by his works. The primrose which is repeated many times on the vase represents youth; the ivy, age. The fringed gentian he remembers in one of his poems.

In the left oval medallion is a child looking up at a bust of Homer, to which his father, standing by, points as a model. The one on the right shows him in the woods, in meditation under a tree. Between these small medallions is a larger one containing a portrait of the poet. Above it is a lyre, symbolizing Bryant's verse. Beneath it is a most primitive printing-press, signifying his connection, for over half a century, with the New York Evening Post. In a still smaller medallion is the figure of a water fowl, as an emblem of faith, and introduced, for that reason, as the keynote of his poetic soul. This brings to mind the last stanza of his exquisite poem, "To a Waterfowl;"

"He who, from zone to zone,
Guides through the boundless sky thy certain flight,
In the long way that I must tread alone,
Will lead my steps aright."

On the lower part of the body of the vase are ears of Indian corn, and at the foot are waterlily leaves, emblematical of eloquence, signifying Bryant's oratory. In the handles are bobolinks, suggesting his poem "Robert of Lincoln," which has been set to music. On the base which supports the vase is a bound sheaf of wheat, which expresses 'work well done.' The broken shackle points to Bryant's services in the cause of negro emancipation. These designs from nature were thought to be the fittest symbols, and the most appropriate means of illustrating the poetical achievements of the poet whose verse teems with symbols drawn from nature, and to emphasize his well-rounded and useful life.

The Calvert vase was made in the Chesapeake pottery in Baltimore, and was shown for the first time at the Columbian Exhibition. It is twenty-eight inches high and twenty-six in width, including the handles, which are winged human figures. The cover is surmounted



THE CALVERT.

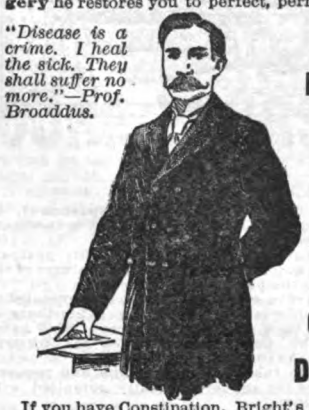
by a flame-point which emphasizes the Renaissance treatment of the entire piece. This is produced in rich, dark Pompadour red, the horizontal lines being in gold, which give a rich effect.

The Dengler is one of thirteen beautiful pieces which were produced by the late young and talented sculptor, Franz Xavier Dengler, who died at the age of twenty-five. He modelled from life, choosing child and bird forms. The initial illustration is one of them, and is in the Boston Art Museum. This is in a deep, rich red and ornamented in high relief.

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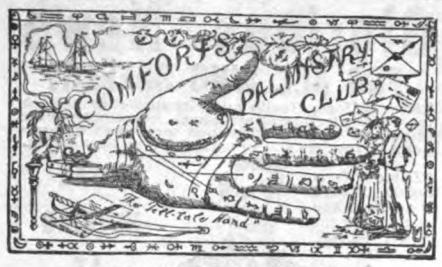


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The package must in every instance be accompanied by the names and addresses of eight new subscribers at twenty-five cents each, the whole amount, $2.00 being remitted, with the package, addressed to COMFORT PALMISTRY CLUB, Augusta, Maine.

No notice will be taken of impressions and requests for readings unless the sender has fully complied with the above conditions.

To take impressions, first hold two large pieces of blank paper over a candle or similar flame, until they are heavily coated with the smoke. Then lay these pieces down, smoke side uppermost on a pad of cotton. Now place the two hands, palms downward, one on each sheet of paper, pressing firmly and steadily down, but taking care not to move the hand. Keep them so for one minute and lift carefully, so as not to disturb the impression. Have ready some fixatif, which can be bought at a drug store or an art store or made with gum arabic and water in an atomizer. Spray this over the impressions before they are moved and allow them to dry. Then they are ready to send.

Smoked paper impressions are the best. But if it is desired to send a plaster cast, take plaster of Paris and dissolve in water to the consistency of thick cream. Pour this into a large shallow dish and when it is hardening place the hand, well-greased, palm downward, in the plaster, pressing downward. Several minutes will be required to get this impression and great care must be taken in removing the hand, not to break the plaster. Casts are exceedingly difficult to send without breaking and should be very carefully packed in a box with the name of the sender written on it. Putty is sometimes successfully used in place of plaster. A good photograph if sufficiently well taken to bring out all the lines, can also be read, although in all cases the smoked paper is the best, if properly treated with fixatif.

Bear in Mind that all the above conditions must be observed.

Also, that letters not complying with them will go into the waste-basket. Readings cannot appear for several months after impressions are sent.

THERE are several inquiries to be answered this month and I will take them up first. I am glad the interest in this department is so great that readers are stimulated to ask questions. I am often told that this is the best department of the kind in the world, so you see what the readers of COMFORT are getting free.

One asks if there are any lines telling if one will marry her ideal? There are; but they are so subtle that it is not possible to explain them here. The fate line starting from the mount of Venus and ending on the plain of Mars signifies a short life marked by many struggles for success attended by ambition, love and strife.

A marriage line under the little finger should be accompanied by a fine parallel lines running close to the fate or the life line at the time marriage is indicated. Without this accompanying line, the marks under the little finger signify engagements only. If these lines are forked at either or at both ends it signifies that the subject will outlive the object of their affections.

"Cyclop" asks: 1st. Does a spot on the mount of Jupiter always indicate disgrace or a fall from some high position? What does a short line rising from a spot on Jupiter, ascending towards the base of the first finger indicate? If a spot on Jupiter is inclosed in a square, what is the indication?

2. What is indicated by a fork in the Fate line just before it reaches the line of the head, both branches ascending towards the mount of Saturn, giving the appearance of a double Fate line from the point at which it forks?

A spot indicates a malady or a disgrace of some kind; when it is on Jupiter it may be modified by helpful lines elsewhere such as good fate line or by a star on Jupiter. A short line rising from such a spot and ascending towards the base of the index finger would be the sign of some gratified ambition. If the spot is enclosed by a square, wherever it may occur, the evil effect is eradicated; the square being a strong protection.



SPECIALIST.

A fork in the fate line such as indicated in the question may signify a marriage at that point and lasting as long as the line extends; or it may signify a new departure in business at the age indicated. In any case it is a lucky line and those who have it may be glad of it.

"Specialist" has a lucky hand, though it is marked by many lines indicating a nervous temperament. She has an intense nature and is very much in earnest in whatever she undertakes to do. She has strong individuality and will have decided opinions on every subject. Her hand is rather hollow and that foretells trouble; but she has so many other good signs that she need not look for many difficulties, and what she has she will see a way out of. Her health will be rather delicate through life; that is while she will not have severe illnesses she will have what is called "a weak constitution" and will not be as vigorous as many who may seem to be stronger. She will live to be eighty or over, with some threatening health aspects about the age of forty-five. She has the courage of her convictions and will be outspoken, even when she loses friends by it. She will meet with opposition from friends and relatives all through the early part of her life, but will persevere and carry out her desires in the end. She will have exceptional talent as an actress or a singer; but I think will marry young and so will miss a career. If she marries at the age of twenty, or under, it will be against the wishes of her family and the marriage will not last long; rather they will become gradually estranged and although the man will live as long as she, they will never come together again. I would advise her to wait until she is thirty before marrying; as that will turn out much better. She will have a number of love-affairs but she should be careful about marrying too young, for she is the kind of girl that the young men all take to and will always have plenty of admirers. I don't think her present courtship will end in marriage. She will have more or less of trouble with her head, such as brain trouble or severe headaches; but there are no indications of insanity or serious difficulties of any kind. Her disposition is good although her nervous temperament will tend to make her irritable at times, a tendency she should try to overcome. She will be wealthy in the latter part of life and will marry a rich man after she is thirty; in fact the best part of her life will come after thirty-five. She will travel a great deal, taking many short journeys in her own country and one or two eventful ones in foreign lands. Her fate line is extraordinarily good and so she will have a long, fortunate and in the main, a happy life.

"C. R." who attaches another word to her nom de plume which I can't make out, has a hand indicating much delicacy and refinement with conscientiousness and kindness combined. She is very straightforward in all her dealings, and will be a friend to be trusted. She, too, has a very nervous temperament, but has it in better control than the subject whose hand I have just read. She is lacking in the right kind of self-esteem, and really needs to have a better opinion of herself and her own abilities. She does not have the courage of her convictions for that reason, and often when she believes a certain course of action would be right and best, she lacks the courage to go ahead and carry it out. She has a good deal of ability, however, and is bound to be successful in what she undertakes, chiefly because her good sense will keep her from embarking on any foolish enterprises. She will have good judgment and whatever she sees to be safe and right will be pretty sure to be so. She will live to be quite an old lady and her luck will increase with her years. She married very young and made a fortunate, at least a happy marriage. She will outlive this husband, and will be thrown on her own resources and be very fortunate in her undertakings. She will have the respect and confidence of the community in which she lives, and this will increase as the years go by, so that she will occupy places of public honor and trust. She is kind and trustworthy to a degree; fond of music, art and sculpture; beautiful scenery appeals to her, and she is happy in the presence of nature in her grandest moods. She will be a favorite with women and be honored among them. If she belongs to a woman's club, she will rise to high position there. She has an enormous triangle in the middle of her hand, which is the sign of great good fortune, and, indeed the whole marking of her hand points to a long, successful and exceptionally happy life.



C. R.

Both these hands were properly represented by excellent impressions, taken according to the directions given above. It is a pleasure to read these; but if you are careless and send poor impressions without using fixatif, or anything to make them indelible, or if they are carelessly packed, they are nearly useless.

Digitus

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THIS GUN is made for us under contract by one of the best gun makers in America. It is offered as one of the highest grade, strongest, hardest shooting, best made and most durable single barrel breech loading shotguns on the market. It is made from a strictly high grade material, made by skilled mechanics. It is a machine made gun, with all parts interchangeable, made on the very latest model for 1900. It embodies all the up-to-date high grade points of all strictly high grade single barrel American made guns, with the defects of none.

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AT $5.50 WE FURNISH THIS LONG RANGE MARVEL IN 30 or 32-INCH BARREL, as desired; in 12-gauge only. Weight, 6½ to 7 pounds. Comes with an extra quality walnut stock, pistol grip, latest top snap break, barrel and mountings beautifully case hardened and finished. MADE EXTRA STRONG AT ALL ESSENTIAL POINTS, accurately adjusted and gauged; barrel selected, bored, fitted and strengthened at breech, with a view of giving GREAT PENETRATION and killing at a longer range THAN ANY OTHER SINGLE BARREL GUN ON THE MARKET.

OUR SPECIAL $5.50 PRICE is based on the actual cost of material and labor, with but our one small percentage of profit added, and when you see and examine this gun, if you do not say it is such a gun as was never seen in your section at anything like the price, you can return it to us at our expense of express charges both ways. WRITE FOR OUR FREE CATALOGUE of guns, rifles, revolvers, fishing tackle, seines, tents, nets and other sporting goods.

Address, **SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO., CHICAGO, ILL.**

FREE



SIX EXQUISITE, COSTLY FINGER RINGS

WE TRUST AGENTS with 20 Mineral Lamp Wicks. Best wick in the World, Light Equal to Gas. No Smoke, No Smell, No Trimming, No Broken Chimneys. Can be sold in an hour or two at 5 cents each. When sold send us the money, $1.00, and we give you free any two of these Solid Gold Said rings. The Stone Set Rings are equal in appearance to costly Diamonds. The Band Rings are elegant in design and all are warranted to wear well and give satisfaction. We take back unsold goods. No cash wanted until wicks are sold. Write to MINERAL WICK CO., Providence, R. I.



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WANTED to do writing at home. Good wages. No canvassing. Send stamped envelope for reply. MISS MODELLE MILLER, New Carlisle, Ind. Please mention COMFORT when you write.

LADIES

to do plain needlework for us at home; we furnish materials and pay $7 to $10 per week. Send stamped envelope to Standard Co., Desk T, Indiana Ave., Chicago, Ill.

SEND 10 CENTS

for Book which will start you in life. John Bolgiano, 15 Clay St., Baltimore, Md.

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Ladies' OR Gent's

Don't pay a cent for a ladies' or gent's high grade safety bicycle. We are **giving them away absolutely free** to quickly introduce our Remedies. They are made of fine steel, extra quality rubber tires and patent handle bars. You take no chances. **Every** person answering this advertisement who sells only 12 boxes of our Corn Cure at **25 cts.** a box, will receive our generous offer of a Ladies' or Gent's Bicycle with a fine plated watch, which you can use as a bicycle watch or carry in the pocket, as you prefer. **No mincing matters with us.** We are an old reliable concern with a reputation for square & honest dealings, and we **guarantee** if you accept our offer we shall send you; the **Bicycle, Ladies' or Gent's** style as you prefer, will be sent direct to your address. This is an extraordinary inducement & if you agree to sell the salve, order to-day & we will send it by mail. When sold you send us the money & we **guarantee** to send your premium exactly as we agree same day money is received. Why pay out money for a bicycle when you can get one absolutely **free** for selling our Remedies. Thousands can testify we do exactly as we say. **M. GRIFFIN, Sec'y, Dept. D, 65 Fifth Ave., New York City.**



FREE SOAP.

3 LUXURIES cheap as dirt. Every person that shaves should have these three articles. **A Cake of the Best Shaving Soap, a Stick of Fine Imported Cosmetic** for the moustache and hair to give a smart and silky effect, and a **Large Lump of Pure White Magnesia** for use after shaving. These are all articles used in the best city barber shops or by rich men that prefer a morning shave at home. Young men should all have the assortment for use Sundays as a clean face well shaven with moustache arranged evenly is bound to be a favorite. The retail price of these articles (in every drug store), is as follows: Soap 10c., Cosmetic 15c., Magnesia 10c. But we are offering the three articles carefully packed in a neat box and sent by mail at our expense for only 19c. which includes a six months' subscription to COMFORT. So you more than get your soap free. Address COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.



CONDUCTED BY AUNT SARAH.



THE entertaining season is with us again, and every woman has more or less of this to do—according to the amount of time she gives to society. If she is the mother of a brood of young children, her entertaining is considerably limited, because she is unable to accept many invitations out herself, so of course has fewer lunches, high teas, receptions and dinners to give in return.

At a lunch recently given by the President of a woman's literary club to the members, a dainty menu card was used for each guest, which we illustrate. This consisted of six cards measuring two inches by three-quarters of an inch. The cards were sewed to a strip of pale lavender ribbon which was a grain wider, and then the ribbon was folded in such a way that each course came in its order—the soup course being on top. Violets and heliotrope were used for table decorations, and the hostess wore a violet liberty silk accordion plaited gown.

We have been asked for a receipe for Harvard Fritters—and give it herewith.

Mix together one cup each of wheat and graham flour, one tablespoon corn meal, one half teaspoon salt and two teaspoons Baking Powder. Add enough milk to make a stiff batter, and drop from spoon into hot fat. Cook until brown, drain upon paper and serve with maple syrup.

GINGER NUTS.

One pound granulated sugar, one-half pound butter, one pound flour, two tablespoons white ginger and two eggs. Roll pieces of the dough in the hands like a marble, and bake in a quick oven.

MELON SALAD.

We illustrated, recently, ice cream served in cantaloupe. A salad may be served in the same way, and the melon may be cut to resemble a basket, with a bale. For the salad, cut the inside portion of the cantaloupe into small cubes. Mix together one-half cup sugar, one teaspoon cinnamon, one-fourth teaspoon mace, and sprinkle the mixture over one quart of the melon cubes. Pile into the melon baskets, and serve with forks.

A fruit salad, made of a combination of sliced fruit in season when the cantaloupes are, mixed with enough powdered sugar to take off the flat flavor, and then piled into the basket with the addition of a small amount of sherry wine or rum, makes a delightful dish, both to the eye and the palate.

GREEN GRAPE JELLY.

Remove stems and wash grapes; add a cup of water and cook until soft; drain in a bag. Reheat juice and when it boils, add one cup of sugar which has been heated in the oven, to each cup of juice; skim frequently and cook until the mixture jellies when tested in a cold glass. Cook no longer than is necessary, as the grape flavor is lost from long cooking.

BARBERRY CORDIAL.

Boil the barberries in a little water until tender and juicy. The juice is then pressed through a jelly strainer. To each pint of juice allow one cup of sugar—bring to the boil and then put in glass jars. In the summer, three tablespoons of this juice added to a glass of ice water makes a delightfully refreshing drink.

PICKLED NASTURTIUM SEEDS.

Gather the seeds and wash and dry them. Put them into salted vinegar, the proportion being one half teaspoon salt to each pint of vinegar—and let stand until all your seeds have been collected. Then scald fresh vinegar, add salt and the seeds, from which the old vinegar has been drained. Pour into bottles while hot, being sure that the seeds are completely covered with vinegar.



MELON BASKET.

One of our constant readers wants rules for removing stains from bed and table linen.

For fresh tea and coffee stains, place the stained linen over a bowl and pour over it boiling water, letting it fall from a height to give more force. For old stains, soak in cold water first and then use the boiling water.

To remove claret stains, cover the stains with salt, while yet fresh; let stand a few minutes and then rinse in cold water.

To remove mildew—soak in a solution of one tablespoon chloride lime in four quarts cold water. Sometimes the use of lemon juice and the sun will remove mildew.

Fresh fruit stains may be removed by pouring boiling water over the stains from a height. If of long standing, use three ounces oxalic acid to each pint of water. Wet the stain with the solution, place in the sun, or over a kettle of hot water to steam. Rinse well, and wet the stain with ammonia to counteract the acid left in.

To remove ink spots, put one or two drops oxalic acid on the stains, rinse in several waters and finally in ammonia.

For iron rust, cover the spots with salt and then with lemon juice; let stand and then add more salt and lemon juice. Rinse in clear water.

We have been asked for a rule for making toilet soap.

This is an exceedingly difficult thing to do on a small scale, as it is almost impossible to make a perfect chemical combination of grease and potash in small quantities.

Boil together one pound potash and twenty times its weight of water and five times its weight of clean fat, until a thick mass is formed which will draw into threads. Add one cup common salt and the soap will separate and rise to the top. Let stand until cold, when the soap may be easily removed. It is further improved by remelting with a little water.

If perfume is desired, add a few drops of essential oil at the melting stage—almond oil, cloves or lavender are the most agreeable.

After being poured into moulds, the soap should remain covered with towels, in a warm room, for twenty-four hours.

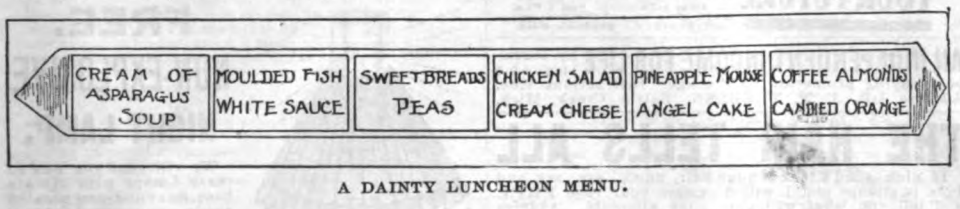
The addition of a small amount of cocoanut oil—in the proportion of one-fifth of the whole at the melting stage, furnishes a finer product.

The Scoharie Republican puts the well-known remark so often said to be used by young husbands to their wives, "such as mother used to make," into a pat little poem, in which the wife scores one on the husband:

Said a young and tactless husband
To his inexperienced wife:
"If you would but give up leading
Such a fashionable life,
And devote more time to cooking—
How to mix and when to bake—
Then perhaps you might make pastry
Such as mother used to make."
And the wife, resenting, answered,
(For the worm will turn, you know,)
"If you would but give up horses,
And a score of clubs or so,
To devote more time to business—
When to buy and what to stake—
Then, perhaps you might make money
Such as father used to make."



A SINGLE dish on the table of the Emperor Heliogabalus was worth twenty thousand pounds! In the degenerate days of the Roman Emperor Vitellius, a meal was given which cost over forty thousand pounds, and which consisted of over two thousand different dishes of fish and seven thousand different fowl, besides other courses in proportion. But the very costliest meal ever served, so far as recorded, was the supper given by Verus, one of the Roman aristocrats. The meal was intended for only twelve persons, yet it cost forty-eight thousand, five hundred pounds, in English money.

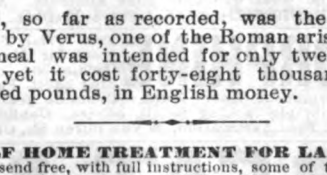


A DAINTY LUNCHEON MENU.

SELF HOME TREATMENT FOR LADIES.
I will send free, with full instructions, some of this simple preparation for the cure of Leucorrhœa, Ulceration, Displacement and all female diseases, to all ladies sending address. I have nothing to sell. Tell other sufferers of it—that is all I ask.
MRS. M. SUMMERS, Box 206, Notre Dame, Ind.

NO MONEY required with your order. Cut this ad. out and send us your order and we will send you this

Silk Plush Cape Worth $7 for **$2.98**



Plush and Lining Guaranteed for two years. If it does not wear well we will send you a new cape free.

EXAMINE it at your express office; assure yourself that it is as great a bargain as you ever saw—**easily worth $7.00**; pay agent **$2.98** and expressage and the cape is yours, or will forward it on receipt of **$3.35** by express prepaid.

This is the **latest Cape. 20 inches long**, reaching 5 in. below waist, of real Silk Seal Plush, lined throughout with black mercerized Sateen, edged all around with black Russian curly Thibet fur, fully worth $7.00—our price—(give neck and waist measure)..... **$2.98**

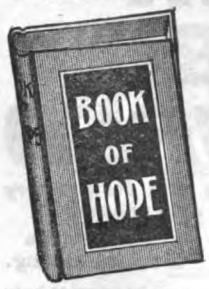
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and a handsome watch chain and a charm.
THIS IS A GENUINE GOLD-FILLED WATCH in appearance, superbly engraved, double hunting case, stem wind & set, fitted with a high grade ruby jeweled movement, absolutely guaranteed for
25 YEARS.
Cut this out send it to us and we will send you the **WATCH AND CHAIN & CHARM C. O. D. $3.75** and express charges for examination. If as represented, pay our special price $3.75 & exp. charges, and it is yours. Mention if you desire Ladies' or Gent's size.
CALUMET WATCH CO., Dept. 46, , Chicago.

FREEDOM FROM DISEASE AND DESPAIR



PROF. H. C. MURPHY, originator of
"MODERN MAGNETISM"
and President of the American Institute of Science, has prepared a course whereby the ambitious can gain ***WEALTH, POWER, POSITION*** and ***HEALTH.*** Although this wonderful power has an origin that seems to come from the mysterious deep, it is easily mastered through the plainly written course by Prof. Murphy. You can ***LEARN AT HOME.*** The only education necessary, the knowledge to read. Through the knowledge you gain you are able, without the aid of drugs or the surgeon's knife, not only to **CURE YOURSELF** of disease, but those about you as well. "Book of Hope," the true key to grandest profession of the age, and the only true science whereby you can ***HEAL YOURSELF*** of all disease, ***ABSOLUTELY FREE.*** Remember, this costs you nothing, simply send your name and address, and you will receive this grand book, as well as the "Magnetic Record," a 32-page magazine, beautifully illustrated, absolutely free to all addressing **THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE, Nevada, Mo.**
Please mention COMFORT when you write.

MORPHINE EASY, PERMANENT HOME CURE. ABSOLUTELY PAINLESS. NEW GERMAN DISCOVERY FOR MORPHINE, OPIUM, LAUDANUM AND KINDRED DRUG HABITS. **BERLIN REMEDY CO., 2 East 42d St., New York.** *Confidential Correspondence Invited.* ***TRIAL TREATMENT FREE.***

GEARHART'S IMPROVED KNITTER with Ribbing Attachment



Knits everything, from homespun or factory yarns, equal to hand-knitting. **Cheap, Practical, Simple.** Illustrated instruction teaches you all about it. Only machine made with **RIBBING ATTACHMENT.** Ahead of all competitors. Satisfaction guaranteed. Plain and ribbed samples free. Address.
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MONEY FOR AGENTS.

THE "CLEAN CUT" CAKE TIN



prevents cakes from **sticking** and produces a perfect cake. Is made of best quality tin with a flat, thin knife, securely riveted in center and at rim. Simple and durable. **Agents** send 6 cts. postage for **free** sample. We are the largest manufacturers of
Pure Aluminum, Scotch Granite and Tin Ware in the world. Address Dept. X
HOUSEHOLD NOVELTY WORKS, 25 Randolph St., Chicago, Ill., or New York, N. Y.; Buffalo, N. Y.; St. Louis, Mo.; Kansas City, Mo.; Denver, Col.; Seattle, Wash.
This Co. is worth a Million Dollars and is reliable.—Ed.

KIDNEY AND BLADDER CURE FREE.
Any sufferer from kidney and bladder diseases, Bright's disease, urethral troubles and any disease of the urinary tract, by sending address to Dr. D. A. Williams, East Hampton, Conn., will receive by mail, absolutely free, Trial Treatment of the one medicine that will permanently cure after everything else has failed.

THE YANKEE FIRE-KINDLER Builds 100 Fires with 3c of Oil. No kindlings. Warranted 3 years. Greatest Seller for Agents ever invented. Sample with terms prepaid, 15c. YANKEE KINDLER CO., BLOCK 41, OLNEY, ILL.

THE NEW DUST PAN.—Rapid seller. Exclusive territory. Write for large catalogue. 50 other fast sellers, and how to get Sample Outfit Free. RICHARDSON MFG. CO., C St., Bath, N. Y.

AGENTS MAKE MORE MONEY SELLING OUR FAMILY RECORDS than any other business on earth Tremendous seller. A beautiful picture, background solid gold. Sample 12c, 10 for $1.00. Sells on sight at 25c. each. MIDLAND ART CO., Montclair, New Jersey.

SEND NO MONEY if you live in Ohio, Kentucky, West Virginia, New York, Pennsylvania, Michigan, Illinois, Wisconsin or Iowa; if in any other state east of the Rocky Mountains, **SEND $11.00,** cut this ad out and send to us and we will send you this big **300-pound new RESERVOIR COOK STOVE** by freight, C. O. D., subject to examination. Examine it at your **FREIGHT DEPOT,** and if found perfectly satisfactory and the **GREATEST STOVE BARGAIN** you ever saw or heard of, pay the freight agent **Our Special Price of $11.50** and freight charges, or **$10.50 and freight charges if $1.00 is sent with the order.** Freight will average about $1.00 for each 500 miles.



THIS STOVE is size 8x18, oven is 18x17x11; top 24x44, height 28½; made from best pig iron, large flues, cut tops, heavy cut centers, heavy corners; heavy linings, with very heavy sectional fire back, large bailed ash pan, slide hearth plate and side oven shelf, pouch feed, oven door kicker; heavy tin lined oven door; handsome nickel trimmings on doors, front, sides, etc.; extra large porcelain lined reservoir. **Best coal burner made.** We furnish an extra wood grate, making it a perfect wood burner. We issue **A BINDING GUARANTEE** with every stove. Your stove dealer would ask you at least $20.00 for such a stove. Order this and you will save at least $8.00. **Write for free Stove Catalogue.**
Address, **SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO., CHICAGO.**

PICTURES ON CREDIT
NO SECURITY ASKED
We send you 4 beautiful large colored pictures, each 16x22, named "Christ in the Temple," "The Angel's Whisper," "The Family Record," "The Life of Christ." These pictures are handsomely finished in 12 colors and could not be bought at Art Stores for 50c each. You sell them for 25c each and send us the money and for your trouble we send you a handsome gold plated ring, set with a beautiful brilliant stone which looks exactly like a diamond. These rings are exceedingly handsome and cannot be told from genuine diamonds except by an expert. If you sell 8 pictures we give you a handsome Silver Dish a beauty. If you sell 15 we give you a nice Watch or a dozen Silver-plated Tea Spoons. The watch is carefully regulated and guaranteed a good timekeeper. The spoons are heavily plated and guaranteed to wear well. Our pictures are works of art and our prizes are valuable. Don't waste time trying to sell rubbish. Take hold of our High-Grade Goods and secure some of these valuable prizes. We pay postage. We take back unsold pictures. We run all the risk. **STANDARD CO., 615 Omaha Bldg., Chicago, Ill.**



Photo BUTTON 10c. Mail photo to copy from. Agents wanted. Photo Jewelry Co., St. Louis, Mo.

$100.00 Reward for particulars. Address B. R. Co., Box 1637, New York.

PILES Instant relief, final cure in a few days and never returns; no purge, no salve, no suppository. Remedy mailed free. Address J. H. REEVES, Box 695, New York, N.Y.

LADIES I Make Big Wages —AT HOME— and will gladly tell you all about my work. It's very pleasant and will easily pay $18 weekly. This is no deception. I want no money and will gladly send full particulars to all sending 2c. stamp. **MRS. A. H. WIGGINS, Box 8, Benton Harbor, Mich.**



A **Labor-Saving** device entirely new and **universal in demand.** Will last a lifetime and costs but **Twenty-five cents. Just on the market and over 500 Gross** sold last month. Every family in the land wants one or more. All you do to sell them is simply show the lady of the house or the office man how it works on his window and you will depart with one less every time, but in its place a quarter.

The **Magical Sponge** differs from the ordinary sponge in nature, while the common sponge is of **vegetable origin** and found in the ocean, the Magical Sponge is a **mineral production** and found in the United States, dug from the ground, carefully prepared and manufactured into sponges for the **Housekeeper, Merchant, Liveryman, Metal Workers,** and all persons who desire to keep their homes, offices, and business places in a clean and healthy condition.

No Soap or water is needed or even used with the Magical Sponge for Cleaning Windows or any outside Metal. In the **winter time** it has no equal, it does not freeze, and no water being used (other than what is in the sponge) all trouble and hard work is avoided. For Cleaning **Baseboards, Window Sills, Wainscoating and painted surfaces,** it acts like a charm; takes all the finger marks, spots, grease and dirt away, leaving a **Clean, Polished Surface.**

Good men wanted all over the country to handle these goods, big inducements offered steady workers, and exclusive sale. **To Agents, Salesmen, and house to house canvassers,** who send us 25 cents for a 6 months' subscription, we will send one sample post paid, and make them a business proposition. Write at once. Secure your territory.
Address **COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.**

FREE A HANDSOME COUCH



Think of it, you can get an Upholstered Couch, 2 pairs of Lace Curtains & a handsome set of Table Silverware, for selling our Remedies. There is no chance or deception about this advertisement. We speak the truth & nothing but the truth. We are determined to introduce our Remedies into every household, and every person answering this advertisement who will sell only **6 boxes** of our Positive Corn Cure, a positive cure for corns, bunions and callous feet, will receive our generous offer of a handsome Upholstered Couch & two pairs of Nottingham Lace Curtains, with a Sterling Silver plated Butter Knife, Sugar Spoon, & a beautifully engraved Salt & Pepper Set, which we give **absolutely free** for selling only **6 boxes** of Salve at **25 cts a box.** If you agree to sell the Salve, write to-day and we will send them by mail. When sold you send us the **$1.50** & we **guarantee** if you comply with the offer we shall send you with the **Silverware** the **Upholstered Couch & 2 pairs of Nottingham Lace Curtains** will be given **absolutely free.** We are an old, reliable concern, with a reputation for square & honest dealing, & we guarantee to do exactly as we say. Our **Lace Curtains** are **3 yards long** & over **a yard wide.** The **Silverware** is guaranteed silver-plated on pure metal. **The Couches** are full size, over **6 feet long** & over **2 feet wide.** They are well stuffed, beautifully upholstered with handsomely colored velour, and when shipped are sent from the factory by freight direct to your address
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Long Live OXIEN, the King of Remedies that Killed it.

No more infernal tortures, no more roastings of the flesh with red hot irons, no more lightning shocks from the electric battery or dosings with dangerous drugs.

RHEUMATISM HAS BEEN CONQUERED by **Oxien** the **triumph of medicine,** the **Godsend** of the **age.** Absolute cures are now certain, and **Oxien** is **making them every day.** In this connection

WE HAVE A WORD TO SAY.

Oxien was last year put to the test as a remedy for **Rheumatism** and it made a record of absolute cures in **Acute Rheumatism,** frequently called rheumatic fever, **Pericarditis** (inflammation of the investing membrane of the heart), **Endocarditis** (inflammation of the living membrane of the heart), **subacute rheumatism,** sometimes applied to the less severe attacks of the disease, **chronic rheumatism,** which swells and twists the joints and **sciatica,** or neuralgia of the sciatic nerve. In fact Oxien is guaranteed to cure Rheumatism in any form. Thousands jump for joy and many write as follows:

Received OXIEN O. K. Found it far superior to what you represent. Have tried everything I could hear of for rheumatism. For ten years I have been crippled up with this terrible disease. Laid in bed one whole year. Could not turn or feed myself and when I was able to walk on crutches (which I did for four years) was crooked and unable to straighten up, but **Oxien did it** *and you can imagine how happy I am now. Yours sincerely, Geo. F. Lawton, Olympia, Wash., Feby. 9th, 1898.*

FREE 200,000 BOXES OF RHEUMATISM CURE. FREE. This momentous offer we make in order to more thoroughly introduce this **amazing rheumatism remedy** in the United States and Canada. None but those who will give us their word that they either suffer from rheumatism, or are afraid of it through hereditary tendencies will be considered entitled to free treatment. Therefore, if you want **a box free** send at once, yes to-day. Write plainly as our clerks are badly rushed.
THE GIANT OXIE CO., Box 1120, Augusta, Maine.



TALKS WITH GIRLS.

CONDUCTED BY COUSIN MARION.

How do you do, my dears, in the crimson glory of the October woods? Isn't it lovely to be alive in October? Just to be alive, even if you are not worth a million dollars and are not surrounded by every luxury wealth can furnish? So let us be happy in Nature's riot of Autumn color.

Now to the work in hand, and the first letter is from Charlotte and Edith of far away Fair Haven, Wash'n. who ask if it is proper to call a man by his first name after he is married. Certainly, if that has been the custom before. (2) Nothing can be done very successfully with a jealous man except to drown him, or put him in boiling oil over night.

Mamie, Piney Point, Md.—Young ladies of twenty-seven do not wear their hair curled down their backs as a rule, though there is no positive law against it.

I. S., Lake Park, Minn.—The address of the Journal you seek is New York.

Rosy Posy, De Funiak Springs, Fla.—The young man will let you precede him into the parlor. (2) Girls of sixteen should not have beaus, nor should they exchange photographs with men. (3) Say anything you want to. (4) Watch the best dancers to see how a young man should hold a lady in the waltz. Some men don't seem to be able ever to learn how.

Ruth, Hearne, Texas—Consult your family physician. (2) Naturally rough hair will not become smooth and glossy. Any druggist will give you a good preparation for the hair, and careful brushing with a soft brush will do the rest.

Flora Silver, Pineville, Tenn.—Hypnotism is a peculiar power exercised by one will over another, and is not yet thoroughly investigated and known. It has no such effect as you ask about that I ever heard of. (2) As to the young man's and your infatuation for each other, it may be a case of real love, but as I see it now, I think you had better wait a year or two and see what effect time will have on it. People may be awfully silly sometimes.

Peachie, Verona, Ky.—All your questions have been answered time and time again in this column.

Mabel, Bellville, Texas—Yes, you may ask the gentleman for a handkerchief if you have none, but it is better to have one of your own. (2) Certainly, an important question may be answered by a note.

Mabelle, Toronto, Ont.—Yours is a plain case. Marry the man you love, and let your parents have the other one, if they want him.

Blue Eyes, Rivers, Me.—No, and you know it. (2) A girl may give a young man her "name card," but don't call it that. "Card" is enough. (3) A girl's mother should be the very first one to know of her love affairs, always.

K. M., Oshkosh, Wis.—Certainly, a girl should not ride with a man to whom she has not been formally introduced, unless he is her groom. (2) If it is the custom in Oshkosh for young women to reward their escorts by kissing them good night, then it is the correct thing to do. It is not so in most places.

Cora, Topeka, Kans.—One attending the graduating exercises of a very intimate friend has nothing to do except to look on and be glad.

Pansie, Whitewater, Wis.—You are too young to be asking about beaus, and don't bother about the tan, either. It is fashionable at this season.

Rex Alta, Hyde Park, Ark.—Rag Time songs are all right, but hardly classic. (2) You may ask a man to call, even though some other young man is expected, but let him know, as he may want to see you alone.

Old Subscriber, Kilbourne, Ill.—There is no sale for such a paper as you mention. (2) I know of no reliable firm that gives home employment to girls, except in the cities where they live and work with the needle.

I. M. T., Bodge, Mo.—Face massaging is to be learned like any other skilled labor, and it cannot be taught in this column.

Lizzie, Staplehurst, Neb.—"A engagement ring" should cost as much as the young man can afford to pay. But why not say "an engagement ring?" (2) Engaged girls do not usually ask their fiances for watches, but you might try once.

Evelyn, Chillicothe, Ohio.—You may ask a married man to hitch up your horse for you, and you may ask a young man to take you anywhere, but be pretty sure of him before you do, for some of them rather resent such requests. (2) On entering a company uninvited it is well to say: "Do I intrude?" or "May I join your party?"

H. H., Bartlett, N. H.—It looks hard to make the young man suffer for what he is not to blame for. Still if you marry him, his "bad" relatives will always be a shame to you, and still more to your children, if you should have any. Notwithstanding, your married life might be an ideal one as far as you two were concerned. Marry him and move far away from the shadow.

N. M. M., Missoula, Mon.—Get rid of the drunken one honorably, and in due time take the gentleman. You are under no obligation to make a wreck of your whole life.

D. A. J., Round Valley, Cal.—There is no harm in going with your sister-in-law's brother, but you and he are each five years too young to even think about marrying. The only harm in it is the chance of your becoming silly.

Brown Eyes, Port Matilda, Md.—Really, my dear, I don't know what a young man means when he calls a girl pretty and is attentive to her. Suppose you wait five or six years, and you will be older and know more. (2) At present you are old enough to know that you should not go wheeling with a young man to whom your parents object.

Blue Eyes, Kansas City, Mo.—Girls should not go into society before they leave school, and they should not leave school before they are twenty. That is not the rule, but it ought to be. (2) Don't stop in at the young man's office or place of business under any circumstances, unless he is engaged in some place where it is customary for parties of visitors to come sight-seeing.

There, my dears, your questions are all answered, and when we meet again the odor of Thanksgiving turkey will be in the air, and may we come to November with our hearts filled with thanks for all the blessings we have received, or the afflictions that we have missed. By by, and the Lord be with you till we meet again.

COUSIN MARION.

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Mrs. May Hawkins Will Help Every Woman Save a Drunkard.

A Trial Package of Her Marvelous Home Treatment **FREE** for the asking.

Any true woman might well be proud to have saved one poor soul from the shackles of drink, but Mrs. Hawkins has redeemed thousands by her noble and practical work among those who



have been victims of intemperance. Mrs. Hawkins for years suffered the grief and anguish shared by so many true and faithful women of America to-day, who have drink-afflicted fathers, husbands or sons. She determined to overcome this fearful evil if possible. Her search for a harmless, perfect and secret home cure was at last rewarded when an old friend came to her and gave her a remedy which had never been known to fail. Mrs. Hawkins gave the remedy secretly and in a few weeks, to her great joy, her dearest relative was entirely cured of appetite for drink and was again restored to health and manhood.

After this wonderful result Mrs. Hawkins decided to devote her life to the work of helping her sisters everywhere, whom she found suffering as she had suffered from the effects of alcohol upon a husband, father or son. With the assistance of others she perfected the original treatment and now offers to send this treatment free to any distressed wife, mother or sister who will write for it. Mrs. Hawkins' great desire is that every woman who needs this medicine will write at once to her and get it.

A Grateful Woman.

MRS. MAY HAWKINS, Grand Rapids, Mich.—My Dear Friend: You have been the means of bringing sunshine into my home. Last August I got your remedy and began giving it to my husband, and from that time until the present he has not taken a drop of any kind of alcoholic drinks. I cannot say too much for what your remedy has done for me and I urge it as a helper to any mother, sister or wife who shall need it. Yours sincerely, MRS. H. A. LANE.

East Hampton, Me., Feb. 14, 1899.

Thousands have saved their homes and loved ones by this remedy and you can be among the number if you only wish it. Mrs. Hawkins treats every letter she receives sacredly confidential and you need have no hesitancy whatever in writing her for assistance. Do not delay; write her to-day. Address

Mrs. May Hawkins, Box 226, Grand Rapids, Mich.

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Cut this ad out and send to us. SEND NO MONEY (if you live East of the Rocky Mountains), state whether you wish the violin and complete outfit or the guitar, and we will send either instrument to you by express C. O. D., subject to examination. **You can examine it at your nearest express office,** call in any expert musician to examine it, and if you find it perfectly satisfactory, pronounced by everyone the **grandest bargain ever seen or heard of,** equal in material and finish, and superior in tone to instruments that others sell at two to three times our special price, pay the express agent **OUR SPECIAL OFFER PRICE..... $3.75** and express charges. Express charges average about 50c for each 500 miles.

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THE $3.75 VIOLIN OUTFIT, as illustrated, includes **Violin, Violin Case, Fine Brazilwood Bow with Ebony Frog, German Silver Button, one set of Glendon Strings, one piece of Rosin, one fine Instruction Book, one Fingerboard Chart** (valuable to both amateur and artist), **one Tuning Pipe** (giving proper pitch to which instrument should be tuned). **THE VIOLIN IS A GENUINE STRADIVARIUS MODEL,** made expressly for us by one of the best makers in Europe. It has that **rich, deep, powerful, yet unusually, mellow, soft and sweet tone produced by the old masters.** It is beautifully finished throughout, fitted with the best ebony fingerboard, tailpiece and pegs, rich, reddish brown in color, **beautifully shaped and handsomely polished, such a violin as you will find in few music stores.**

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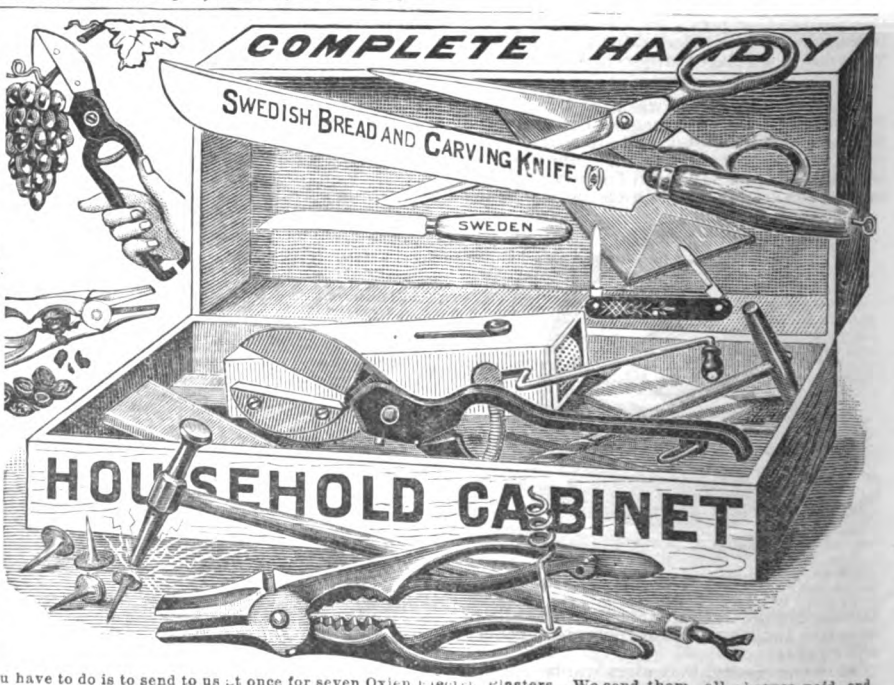


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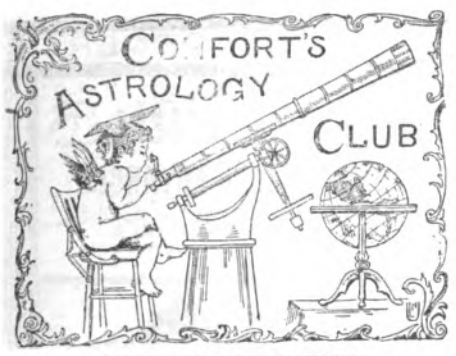
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CONDUCTED BY REGULUS.



THE Lunation or new moon to which we look for indications as to National affairs for the month is the one that occurs at about 20 minutes past 8 o'clock in the morning of the 23rd of October, Washington time.

At the moment of that new moon Mercury will be just rising on the ascending horizon; the conjoined luminaries will be in the eastern heavens on the cusp of the 12th house; Venus will be on the mid-heaven; Mars, past the meridian, in the 9th house; Saturn in the 2d house, and Herschel and Jupiter conjoined in the Ascendant.

The indications of the figure bear out the general good promises of former figures for the steady progress and permanent welfare of the Nation. The benefics occupy the important angles of the figure, showing marked predominance of good over evil and the conjoined luminaries themselves have the best rays of the superior planets Saturn and Neptune and suffer no affliction from any of the planetary bodies. There are some minor indications of drawbacks and hindrances. Saturn in the 2d, points to heavy drainage of the Nation's revenue; Mars in the 9th indicates vigorous and aggressive action of the government in defending the commercial rights of our country in the markets of the world. Saturn's position points to some underhanded action or efforts of foreign interests to our detriment in a commercial sense but the watchfulness and vigor of our government saves our advantages and continues the Nation among the progressive ones of the world.

CELESTIAL CALENDAR FOR NOVEMBER, 1900.

NOVEMBER. 1—Thursday. This day is particularly favorable for dealings in real estate and for all manner of contracts looking to its improvement and for all agricultural undertakings. Deal in lumber, metals, wool, mining ores, coal, lead, and grain and make engagements with the laboring classes of men.

2—Friday. Make personal applications to public officials and persons in authority for favor or advantage, during the forenoon; but after the noon hour baffling and disappointing conditions arise which promise very unfavorably for the launching of any new undertaking, especially if it is concerned with money or with banking interests; do not make purchases of a speculative character and keep an eye to the purse for avoidance of waste.

3—Saturday. A day of very indifferent promise when thou shouldst not ask favor of superior or persons in authority or public officers; the afternoon gives many petty annoyances and disappointments; do not expect pleasure from social or musical entertainments and dramatic engagements will be less satisfactory than usual; see that no mistakes are made in the taking of medicines; poisonous drugs should be used with unusual caution. The fair sex will be seriously antagonized in these passing days and sorrows and disappointments to them will be fruitful in mischief; let them beware of any matrimonial contract at this time, especially if born about the 23rd of March, June, September or December, of past years. Theatrical managers will do well to avoid this time for making any new engagements in their professions and ought not to be surprised if their affairs meet hindrances and disappointments or they suffer losses in their business, especially if born about the dates given above.

4—Sunday. One of the best Sabbaths of the month, especially so for the good and prosperity of church matters and for religious and moral improvement; the afternoon conduces particularly to very happy pulpit efforts, giving unusual eloquence and zeal to the extemporaneous speaker and closer attention and more ready comprehension and conviction to the listener.

5—Monday. An excellent day; bargain for lands and houses; make contracts for their improvement and deal with the agricultural classes and mechanics; surgical operations and chemical experiments generally succeed; consult thy dentist; travel and trade in cattle, machinery, hardware and cutlery, especially in the forenoon hours.

6—Tuesday. Be not rash in word or deed in this day, nor have dealings with mechanics, dentists, or surgeons; see that no offence is given by thee to thine employer nor expect favor from public officials or persons of prominence in large manufacturing concerns; make no beginning in matters of consequence; keep out of controversy of all kinds, especially if born about the 5th of February, 4th of May, 9th of August, or 6th of November, of past years.

7—Wednesday. Keep thy tongue under restraint during the early hours of the forenoon; nor be rash in decision in business engagements; quarrels and contentions are easy of birth and more violence of passion abounds at this time than usual; the afternoon is the best part of the day.

8—Thursday. Let all engaged in the literary walks of life rest quietly during this day; the time will develop much fraud and deception; sign no papers of consequence and give no credit without closest scrutiny; do no important correspondence nor hire or purchase lands or houses, and postpone transacting business with lawyers; the noon hour is the best hour, but better permanent headway may be made by saving and repairing the nervous energies at this time and running no risk. This is particularly true of persons born about the 23rd of February, 28th of May, 25th of August, or 6th of December, of past years. Such nativities are injuriously affected for a short season and strange mental troubles and anxieties are indicated for a majority of such persons. Nervous diseases generally will be aggravated and neuralgic annoyances are likely to prove more than usually troublesome; do not use this day for any engagement pertaining to trademarks, copyrights, patents, or any of the novelties of life; beware of speculation and be watchful of the purse.

9—Friday. This day is conducive to business activity and enterprise, particularly encouraging dealings in cattle and metals; the mechanical trades are favored and manufacturing interests should be pushed vigorously; deal in drugs, chemicals, hardware, cutlery and electrical goods of all kinds.

10—Saturday. A day greatly to be avoided for wooing or wedding; the conditions are treacherous and evil and likely to prove very unfortunate to the persons contracting any matrimonial engagement at this time; have no dealings with thy landlord nor plan or execute any matter improving real estate; do not make any engagement with builders, farmers, plumbers, painters, decorators nor dealers in house-furnishing goods; the landscape artists have been much under affliction for the past week or ten days and their enterprises should not be productive of satisfaction.

11—Sunday. Peculiar features of religious doctrine are disclosed on this day by the extemporaneous preacher and the day will prove fruitful of strange experiences.

12—Monday. Rise early and push thy business; pursue literary avocations and those connected with the polite arts; drive thy correspondence and sign deeds and writings in the middle hours of the day.

13—Tuesday. Commercial men will find the first part of this day favorable for making purchases of goods for trade and for transactions of a money character, especially dealings with banks and persons of wealth; travel and have pleasures in the evening.

14—Wednesday. With a healthy check upon the sudden impulses and hasty action, in the forenoon, this day should be vigorously employed for forwarding all honorable enterprises, particularly if concerned with real estate or its improvement; correspondence in the late hours is best postponed.

15—Thursday. This day bids thee buy not, nor canst thou expect much advantage from money dealers or dealings; do not indulge thy tastes or purchase mere gratifications as the conditions prompt extravagance and selfish indulgences; do not seek favor nor expect advantage from thy transactions with government bodies or large corporate interests.

16—Friday. Push thine affairs; seek favor and promotion at the hands of the prominent or thy superiors in office and crowd all undertakings to the utmost.

17—Saturday. The forenoon hours somewhat embarrass business transactions, though matters of a literary character are less interfered with than most others.

18—Sunday. One of the promising Sabbath days of the month particularly conducive to the success of religious efforts and contributing physical vitality, strength, and buoyancy of spirit; a very fortunate birthday anniversary, promising good health conditions and prosperity for many months to come; it is peculiarly promising of happiness to persons born about this day, in past years, who are now contemplating marriage or engagements looking in that direction.

19—Monday. Employ every moment of this day pushing business to the utmost; transact business with surgeons, chemists, machinists and all the mechanical classes; have surgical operations performed, trade in cattle and metals, be astir for transactions with landlords and dealings with contractors, plumbers, and aged persons.

20—Tuesday. Push sales and business generally, though be not too ready to sign writings or make engagements without deliberately weighing consequences. Give attention to business concerned with great manufacturing enterprises, mechanical engineering, or electrical ventures.

21—Wednesday. Use this day vigorously for commercial ventures pertaining to literary pursuits; urge all studies and the literary avocations, journey and attend to business with lawyers, merchants, printers, publishers, and all ingenious persons: literary efforts will be crowned with success; do all important correspondence, engage help and attend to educational matters.

22—Thursday. An unpromising day; give employer a wide berth and no cause for dissatisfaction of this day; keep a civil tongue; be slow to take offence, avoid all controversy and those claiming it for an anniversary should take due precautions during the next few months to avoid exposing themselves unnecessarily to danger of accident and against the doing of those things which contribute to liver, lung, bowel, and all classes of inflammatory or eruptive troubles. The same is in some measure true of persons born about the 18th of February, 21st of May, or 23rd of August, of past years; and more than the ordinary care ought to be exercised by such persons for avoidance of fevers and hurts, nor should they be too aggressive or contentious in their business surroundings. Male relatives of such persons are likely to be experiencing adverse conditions.

23—Friday. This day is a vast improvement over the preceding and the middle hours should be fully employed in the major undertakings of life; especially such as concern money matters or dealings with the wealthy; buy goods for trade, and crowd all honorable enterprises.

24—Saturday. Push business diligently especially such as concerns the elegant in life and all the classes of mechanical work, manufacturing, and electrical ventures; deal in fancy goods, dress materials, jewelry and articles of adornment. Social, musical and dramatical matters have favoring conditions, and the fair sex will incline toward entertainment and recreation.

25—Sunday. An inferior day, prompting quiet rather than exertion; put a bridle upon the tongue in the evening.

26—Monday. Improve the first two-thirds of the day for literary labors and commercial engagements as to literary productions; the elegant pursuits meet adverse conditions as this day advances, when dealings in artistic goods, wearing apparel, musical merchandise, and articles which gratify and please mankind are not favored or do not yield profitable results; do not have social entertainments in the evening, nor expect satisfaction from the drama.

27—Tuesday. During this day applications to employers and persons in authority in either private or public positions are likely to meet with very favorable consideration. Deal with government officers, railway officials, and persons of political prominence.

28—Wednesday. Seek money accommodations in the early forenoon, but be in no haste to do business with persons in the literary callings; sign no deeds; do no writing in matters of magnitude, nor concern thyself with educational projects; the afternoon and evening favor the elegant and social matters, and pleasure seeking of temperate character will be unusually agreeable.

29—Thursday. Avoid dealings with public officials; give no offence to thine employer; expect no favor from banks or monied institutions and avoid very aged and eccentric persons in life.

30—Friday. Be watchful of the purse in the early forenoon, when no purchases should be made of a speculative character; the literary and educational ventures ought to be pushed to the utmost on this day.

DISCOVERED BY A WOMAN.

I have discovered a positive cure for all female diseases and the piles. It never fails to cure any of the various diseases peculiar to women, such as leucorrhœa, displacements, ulceration, granulation, etc., or the piles from any cause or in either sex. I will gladly mail a box of this wonderful medicine free to every sufferer. Mrs. C. B. MILLER, Box 106, Kokomo, Ind.

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For this month only, we offer at a reduced price a quantity of elegant cloth bound books by such authors as Browning, Carlyle, Halevey, Bacon, Tennyson, Ruskin, Lamb and Arnold. These books are printed on good paper with clear type, and the best of ink. Are for library, school and home use being the best work of these writers. You cannot afford to be without these books at this unheard of low price. Hardly pays postage as each book weighs 12 ounces or over. If you send now we will send one only for 10c. and pay the postage; four for 32c. by express collect. If not satisfactory money refunded. Address, COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

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Address Mrs. L. Hudnut 43A, South Bend, Ind.



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SEND NO MONEY If you live within 500 miles of Chicago (if further send $1.00), cut this ad out and send to us and we will send you this, the best 8-foot STEEL WINDMILL, complete with wheel, vane, chain, wire and rod, by freight C. O. D., subject to examination. You can examine the mill at your nearest railroad station and if you find it perfectly satisfactory, exactly as represented, one of the best steel windmills made and the equal of mills sold by others at double our price, pay the railroad agent Our Special Offer Price, $16.50 and freight charges (or $15.50 and charges if $1.00 is sent with order). The mill weighs 335 pounds and the freight will average $1.50 to $2.00 for each 500 miles. OUR $16.50 WINDMILL is one of the highest grade mills made. Extremely simple, made of few parts; cannot get out of order, has self oiling pitman, positive brake, wheel makes 2½ revolutions to one stroke of the pump. Responds instantly when thrown in or out of gear. Can be used either on wood or steel tower. Guaranteed the easiest running, best, strongest, most durable mill made. FOR $14.36 we furnish the highest grade, 390-pound, 20-foot ALL STEEL TOWER, complete with anchor posts, anchor bolts and large platform. Strongly braced with angle steel cross girts from post to post on every side and at the bottom. Best tower construction possible. Sent anywhere within 500 miles of Chicago without deposit, our special price, $14.36 and freight charges, payable when received and found satisfactory. For any other sizes of Mills and Towers, special inside cut prices on Pumps, Tanks, Iron Pipe and Fittings, WRITE FOR OUR FREE CATALOGUE of Windmills, Pumps and Pipe. Address

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NO C. O. D. OR DEPOSIT SCHEME.

Every person who is a sufferer from nervous diseases should write the Von Mohl Co., Cincinnati, Ohio, at once, and accept their offer of a five days' trial treatment free of charge. This is no C. O. D. or DEPOSIT scheme but a liberal proposition made to unfortunate sufferers by this long-established concern, which is the largest importer of specifics for nervous and sexual diseases in the world.

The Von Mohl Co. has the sole American rights for Prof. Laborde's French preparation of "Calthos," the only remedy known to advanced medical science that will positively cure nervous debility. This remedy has for years been used as a specific in the French and German armies, and since its introduction into the United States has cured many thousands of sufferers, and the remarkable success of the remedy in Europe has been repeated in this country.

In order to place this wonderful treatment in the hands of every person who suffers the mental and physical anguish of sexual weakness, The Von Mohl Co., has decided to send a free trial treatment to all who write at once. The remedy is sent by mail in a plain package, and there is no publicity in receiving it or taking it. Accompanying the medicine there is a full treatise in plain language for you to read. Take the medicine privately with perfect safety, and a sure cure is guaranteed.

Lost vitality creeps upon men unawares. Do not deceive yourself or remain in ignorance while you are being dragged down by this insidious disease. No matter what the cause may be, whether early abuses, excesses or overwork and business cares, the results are the same—premature loss of strength and memory, emissions, impotency, varicocele and shrunken parts. This specific remedy will cure you at any stage before epilepsy results, with ensuing consumption and insanity. "Calthos" goes directly to the seat of the trouble, no matter of how long standing, and the patient feels the benefit of the first day's treatment. In five days the medicines sent free will make you feel like a new man.

The Von Mohl Co. often receives the most astonishing testimonials from persons who have taken only five days' treatment. They have thousands of testimonials from those who have been permanently cured after having been given up by doctors, misled and ruined in health by disreputable medical schemers, and when they had given up their last hope for health and happiness. No sensible person will permit his name to be used for a testimonial as an admission that he had any of the diseases for which the preparation of "Calthos" is a specific cure. Some irresponsible advertisers are using "made-up" testimonials, but the Von Mohl Co. invariably declines to make public the names or correspondence of any patients who have been cured by "Calthos."

Five days' treatment will be placed in your hands free of cost, and you are earnestly urged for your own sake to send for it without delay. Write to day and send your address. It is not necessary to give embarrassing details of your symptons. The book accompanying the five days' treatment will enable you to take the medicine in private and treat yourself successfully at home. It costs nothing to try this remedy. It may cost you a great deal more to let this offer go by. Write today. Address THE VON MOHL CO. 857 B, CINCINNATI, OHIO. Largest Importers of Standard Preparations in the United States.



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Control whom you wish. Make others love and obey you. Cures diseases. Makes fun by the hour. New and instantaneous method. Quick as a flash. YOU can learn it. Success sure. Mammoth illustrated LESSON and full particulars FREE! Send address at once. Prof. L. A. Harraden, - JACKSON, MICH.

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by VESTRO. Developes the bust 6 inches, fills all hollow places, adds grace, curve and beauty to the neck; softens and clears the skin. Beautiful women everywhere owe their superb figure and matchless loveliness to Vestro. Harmless, permanent. NEVER FAILS. Every lady should have this unrivalled developer. Adds charm and attraction to plainest women. Full particulars, photos, testimonials, etc., sealed for two cent stamp. Address AURUM MEDICINE CO. Dept. A. N 55 State St., Chicago.

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HAVE YOU Sore throat, Pimples, Copper Colored Spots, Aches, Old Sores, Ulcers in Mouth, Hair-Falling? Write COOK REMEDY CO., 1731 Masonic Temple, Chicago, Ill., for proofs of cures. Capital, $500,000. Worst cases cured 15 to 35 days. 100-page book free.

FREE SILK DRESS



Full 10 to 15 yards of beautiful silk, black, brown, blue, green or pink, in light or dark shades. Here is an honest advertisement. No beating around the bush. We talk plain English, and we guarantee to send our generous offer of a handsome Silk Dress, with a solid gold laid carbon Diamond Breast Pin, which we give absolutely free to every person answering this advertisement who sells only 6 boxes of our Positive Corn Cure at 25 cts. a box. If you will agree to do this, order salve to-day and we will send it by mail, when sold you send us the money & we send you this handsome present exactly as we agree same day money is received. We make this extraordinary inducement to convince you we have the best Corn Cure on earth & if you comply with our offer we shall send you the Silk Dress, full 10 to 15 yards, any color you desire, will be given absolutely free. You take no chance. Don't pay out your good money for a Silk Dress while you can get one Free for selling our Remedies. Address M. WILLIAMS, Mgr., Dept. C, Station O, N. Y. City.

A Complete Outfit of 44 Tools FREE.



GREATEST MONEY MAKER AND MONEY SAVER EVER SEEN: NEEDED IN EVERY HOUSE IN THE WORLD.

Hundreds of dollars are wasted every year in paying for repairs which could be done by you just as well as by the person you hire. "Yes," you will say, "I could do this work if I only had the tools." You have to hire the plumber or cobbler and pay him for his time while you stand around and look on, watching him do the work which you could do as well as he, but it is always that you have no tools. We have put together the best kit of tools for repairing which was ever seen, and we will sell the entire outfit for less than half the money for which you could buy it at any store. The outfit consists of **forty-four first-class tools**, as shown in the above cut, viz: **1 iron last for men's work; 1 iron last for boy's work; 1 iron last for women's work; 1 iron last for children's work; 1 iron stand for lasts; 1 shoehammer; 1 shoeknife; 1 peg awl handle; 1 peg awl; 1 wrench for peg awl handle; 1 sewing awl handle; 1 sewing awl; 1 stabbing awl handle; 1 stabbing awl; 1 bottle leather cement; 1 bottle rubber cement; 1 bunch bristles; 1 ball shoe thread; 1 ball shoe wax; 1 pkg. clinch nails, 2-8 in.; 1 pkg clinch nails 5-8 in.; 1 pkg. clinch nails, 6-8 in.; 1 pkg. heel nails; 4 prs. heel plates, assorted sizes; 6 harness needles; 1 harness and saw clamp; 1 box slotted rivets, assorted sizes; 1 rivet set for same; 1 harness and belt punch; 1 soldering iron, ready for use; 1 handle for same; 1 bar solder; 1 bar resin; 1 bottle soldering fluid; 1 copy directions for halfsoling, etc., 1 copy directions for soldering** all securely packed, together with directions for use, in a neat case. These tools bought at a hardware store separately **would cost between $7.00 and $9.00.** You can repair boots and shoes, tap and heel them, mend your harness or make a new one, mend all kinds of tinware, repair pumps, plumbing and similar work, and do all kinds of leather work about carriages, etc., as well as repair and mend rubber boots, rubbers, overshoes, and all kinds of rubber made articles. The clamp is used for mending harnesses and filing saws. Has a coil spring and is made of iron. **You can easily save five times the cost of this outfit in six months** and make a heap of money doing little repairs for your neighbors and others. "A stitch in time saves nine," and if you have these tools in your house you can make repairs and save a great deal of money which you would pay if you let a break go or hired a man to do your repairing work for you. Every one of these tools are **full sized, practical, neat and cheap.** It is the only complete outfit in the market and thousands have been sold in past years for $3.00 when the outfit contained but about half as many smaller articles to people living in the country and small towns as well as in the city. This repairing outfit, weighing 20 lbs. will be sent by freight complete as above described for **only $1.62** which includes a 6 months' trial subscription to this paper.

GREAT PREMIUM OFFER.—If you will get up a club of 6 yearly trial subscribers to this paper at the special price of 25 cents each, we will send you one of these repairing outfits as a present to you.

COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

WE ALLOW A FIVE PER CENT DISCOUNT WHEN CASH IN FULL ACCOMPANIES THE ORDER.

ELEGANT STYLISH NEW CAPES JACKETS ETC. AT ONE HALF USUAL PRICES

BUY NOW. DON'T DELAY.

When ordering always mention number and color of garment, name, address and shipping directions, and give necessary measurements.

GREATEST SALE EVER INAUGURATED. 89,570 new, up-to-date and perfectly tailored Cloaks, Suits and Furs to be sold at less than fifty cents on the dollar. Purchased from Arnold Smith & Co. of New York City, a house known everywhere as makers of the finest outer garments that can be produced. A miscalculation on their part caused an enormous surplus of stock, which was sold to us at a price less than the cost of the material alone.

ORDER NOW before the best numbers are sold out. This is an opportunity of a lifetime. It places you in a position to secure a stylish winter wrap or costume at a figure simply unheard of.

FIVE PER CENT DISCOUNT when cash in full accompanies the order. Cash orders entail less clerical labor, thus this offer. Goods not entirely satisfactory and exactly as represented, may be returned for exchange or refund of money.

GOODS FORWARDED C. O. D. WITH PRIVILEGE OF EXAMINATION to those preferring to order this way, but we will allow no discount on such orders.

MEASUREMENTS NECESSARY when ordering a cape or collarette. Give number of inches around fullest part of bust. For a ladies' jacket give number of inches around bust, inside sleeve length and size of collar. For a suit give number of inches around bust and waist, inside sleeve length and length of skirt in front. For a misses' or child's garment give age.

EDITOR'S ENDORSEMENT. The firm of Edward B. Grossman & Co. is perfectly reliable and responsible and our readers may feel assured that they will receive only fair and courteous treatment at their hands. This cloak sale is truly unprecedented, and no person in need of such goods as they advertise can afford to pass it by.

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Our Illustrated Catalogue No. 71 A contains the very latest styles in Cloaks, Suits, Skirts, Waists, Furs, etc. Send for it, if these styles are not just what you want.

$2.48



FOR THIS Extremely Stylish Ladies' Cape. Made in the best possible manner; of the finest quality silk seal plush; 18 inches long; has a very wide sweep; deep storm collar, edged with full black Thibet fur; entire garment elaborately trimmed with mohair braid and cut jet; lined with a very good quality black silkoline.

Sizes 32 to 44 inches bust measure.

$5.95

FOR THIS Nobby Ladies' Costume. Made by expert tailors of the finest quality twilled Meriden suiting; jacket made in the fly front style; notched at front and finished with numerous rows of silk stitching; new style sleeves and back; lined throughout with a good quality of colored silkoline; skirt is lined with percaline and is well stiffened; has overlaid seams and inverted plaited back; comes in black, navy blue, also gray, Oxford or tan mixture.

Sizes from 32 to 44 inches bust measure, with skirt lengths from 39 to 44 inches.



$2.48



FOR THIS Exceptionally Fine Ladies' Double Cape. Made of an excellent quality heavy black boucle cloth; 28 inches long with a very full sweep; upper cape and deep storm collar edged with black Thibet fur and trimmed with rows of mohair braid and gimp.

When ordering, give name, address, shipping directions, No. of garment, measurements, etc.

$2.98



FOR THIS Swell Ladies' Double Cape. Made of the best quality heavy black beaver cloth; 27 inches long, with a very full sweep; upper cape and storm collar trimmed with five rows of narrow black ribbon and edged with black Thibet fur.

Order quickly before the choicest numbers are sold out. This is an extraordinary value.

$3.74

FOR THIS Beautiful Ladies' Cape. Made of a very good quality heavy black boucle cloth; 30 inches long; has very full sweep; deep storm collar and fronts of cape edged with full black Thibet fur; lined throughout with a good quality black serge and heavily interlined.

This garment would retail ordinarily at fully $7.50.



$4.98

FOR THIS Attractive Ladies' Cape. Made of the finest quality heavy black close curl boucle cloth; 30 in. long; with a very full sweep; has a very large storm collar, which together with fronts are edged with full Thibet fur; is lined throughout with an excellent quality black silk serge; well interlined; inverted plaited back.

Buy a cloak now at about one-half regular price.



$6.98



FOR THIS Magnificent Ladies' Cape. Made of the finest quality silk seal plush; 27 inches long, with full sweep; beautifully and elaborately embroidered with mohair braid and cut jet; has deep storm collar and fronts edged with full black Thibet fur; lined with an excellent quality black serge.

Tell your friends about this sale. They will appreciate it.

$4.50



FOR THIS Exquisite Ladies' Cape. Made of an exceptionally fine quality silk seal plush (gored style); elaborately and tastefully trimmed with mohair braid and cut jet; deep storm collar and fronts of cape edged with black Thibet fur; lined throughout with best black silkoline; 24 in. long; with full sweep.

3228—Same as 3227, 27 in. long **$5.00**
3229—Same, 30 in. **5.50**

$4.45

FOR THIS Elegant Ladies' Cape. Made in the gored style, of an excellent quality silk seal plush; is 24 inches long, with full sweep; has deep storm collar, and fronts edged with black Thibet fur; is lined throughout with a good quality black lusterine.

No. **3231.** Same as No. 3230; 27 inches long.....**$4.65**

No. **3032.** Same as No. 3230; 30 inches long.....**$4.95**



$7.98

FOR THIS Extremely Beautiful Ladies' Cape. Made of the finest quality Salts silk seal plush; 30 in. long; with a very full sweep; magnificently embroidered in design as shown with braid and cut jet; has deep storm collar, which, together with fronts, is edged with best quality Thibet fur; lined throughout with good quality black silk serge.

This is an opportunity of a lifetime. Do not let it slip by.



$4.25



FOR THIS Very Stylish Ladies' Walking Skirt. Made of the best quality heavy melton cloth; is finished as shown, with numerous rows of silk stitching; has new style panel front; wide self-facing at foot; inverted plaited back; comes in black, navy blue and brown

Walking Skirts are now worn by every lady who lays any claim to style.

$3.74



FOR THIS Very Pretty Ladies' Jacket. Made of an excellent quality black or navy blue beaver cloth; double breasted style; has deep storm collar; new style sleeves and back; eight handsome buttons, two pockets; is half lined with an excellent quality black mercerized Italienne cloth; 20 inches long.

$3.48



FOR THIS Swell Ladies' Double Breasted Jacket. Of excellent quality black close-curl boucle cloth; deep storm collar; 8 handsome buttons; new style sleeves and back; lined throughout with excellent black moreen; 19 in. long.

Goods forwarded C. O. D. without deposit. By remitting cash in full you save 5 per cent discount.

$4.48

FOR THIS Extremely Nobby Ladies' Double Breasted Jacket. Of finest heavy weight black or navy blue melton cloth; trimmed with overlaid straps; high neck storm collar; eight carved buttons; 20 inches long; lined throughout with excellent black sateen; new style sleeves and back.

Think of it. All new and seasonable goods at less than the cost of material alone.



$4.98

FOR THIS Beautiful Ladies' Combination Tab Collarette. Of brown bear fur and Baltic seal; trimmed as shown with 8 full fox tails and two animal heads; lined with an excellent quality colored satin.

At this price you certainly should procure one of these collarettes.



$4.98



FOR THIS Elegant Ladies' Double Breasted Jacket. Made of the best quality melton cloth; has high neck storm collar, which, together with front and bottom of jacket and pocket laps, is piped with velvet in contrasting shade; double stitched tailored seams; 20 in. long; 8 handsome buttons; lined throughout with excellent Italienne cloth; comes in black, navy blue and tan.

$5.48



FOR THIS Stylish Ladies' Double-Breasted Jacket. Of finest close curl black boucle cloth; 20 in. long; handsomely trimmed front and back with overlaid kersey straps; eight handsome buttons; new style bell sleeves; lined throughout with fine quality black silk Romaine.

Give full information when ordering.

$6.98

FOR THIS Exquisite Ladies Jacket. Of the best quality black or navy blue kersey cloth; 20 in. long; entire garment finished with numerous rows of silk stitching; lined throughout with an excellent quality black silk Romaine; six handsome buttons; two pockets; new style bell sleeves.



$7.98

FOR THIS Swell Ladies' Jacket. Of the finest quality black Kersey cloth 20 inches long; has new style scalloped lapels, and collar inlaid with heavy black satin and finished at edge with overlaid silk stitched kersey strap; lined throughout with heavy black silk Romaine; six handsome pearl buttons; new style bell sleeves.



$3.48

Dressy Misses' Double Breasted Jacket. Excellent blue melton cloth; inlaid velvet collar; half lined with a good colored Italienne cloth; 6 handsome buttons; 2 pockets

Misses' Jackets come in ages 14, 16, and 18 yrs., being equivalent to 32, 34, and 36 inches bust measure.



$3.74



FOR THIS Fashionable Misses' Jacket. Made in the double breasted style of the best quality blue melton cloth; lined throughout, including sleeves, with an excellent quality colored Italienne cloth; eight fancy buttons; two pockets; overlaid seams; cloth clasp at neck; new style sleeves and back.

Misses' jackets do not come in ladies' sizes.

$3.74



FOR THIS Handsome Misses' Jacket. Made in the double breasted style; of an excellent quality blue melton cloth; deep storm collar; pockets and front piped with velvet, as shown; has 8 handsome buttons; new style sleeves and back; finished with numerous rows of silk stitching.

$2.24



FOR THIS Tasty Child's Jacket. Of a very good quality tan and blue mixture cloaking; has large scalloped collar overlaid with cloth in shade contrasting with jacket and trimmed, together with strap in back, with rows of white braid; 6 handsome buttons; 2 pockets; wide self-facing.

Sizes from 4 to 14 years. Children's Jackets should be ordered by age.

$2.24

FOR THIS Beautiful Child's Jacket. Of a very fine quality red or navy blue melton cloth; has large scalloped collar; strap in back and sleeves trimmed with fancy gimp and braid; two pockets and six fancy buttons.



$3.24

FOR THIS Exceptionally Fine Child's Double Breasted Jacket. Of finest quality red or navy blue boucle cloth; has large scalloped collar; overlaid with broadcloth; trimmed with fancy gimp; top collar and sleeves trimmed similarly; has six handsome buttons and two lapped pockets; wide self-facing.



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